Daily Report

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Soviet Union

FBIS-SOV-91-180 *17 September 1991*

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Arms Control & Disarment

U.S. Given Limited Access to New Seismic Station

LD1709103491 Moscow TASS in English 1009 GMT 17 Sep 91

[By TASS Correspondent Viktor Elmakov]

[Text] Novosibirsk September 17 TASS—U.S. experts have been granted limited access to a new seismic station built near the Novosibirsk Academy of Sciences campus to monitor underground nuclear tests. They can stay there ten days before the test and two days after it. The Soviet Defence Ministry handed the station over to the Soviet Academy of Sciences which will conduct scientific and economic research there.

Similar stations have been built in accordance with a Soviet-U.S. agreement in the city of Obninsk (near Moscow) and in the Artiy settlement in the Urals, according to Colonel Kovalenko, head of the Building Standards State Commission. U.S. experts will check the stations in October, and Soviet specialists will visit similar sites in the USA. The stations will monitor the yields of the explosions which cannot exceed 150 kilotonnes according to the Treaty on the Limitation of Underground Nuclear Tests. Seismic measurements are a means of monitoring the compliance with the treaty. Each side will use their own equipment which helps increase the level of trust, the colonel said.

Velikhov Discusses Nuclear Safety, Arms Control

AU1609163791 Vienna DIE PRESSE in German 16 Sep 91 p 3

[Interview with Yevgeniy Velikhov, vice president of the Soviet Academy of Sciences and President Gorbachev's adviser, by an unidentified DIE PRESSE correspondent in Moscow on 10 September: "The Soviet Union Has Lost Its Claim as a Superpower"]

[Text] Yevgeniy Velikhov is the vice president of the Soviet Academy of Sciences. Since the beginning of perestroyka, he has been an adviser to Mikhail Gorbachev. As one of the leading nuclear scientists of the Soviet Union, he supervised the measures after the nuclear accident of Chernobyl. Velikhov publicly supported Andrey Sakharov's rehabilitation. The following interview was given in Moscow on 10 September.

[DIE PRESSE] Last week, the new Soviet defense minister stated that nuclear weapons will be under safe control when the Soviet Union disintegrates into several sovereign states. Did this statement convince you, as perhaps the top nuclear scientist of the country?

[Velikhov] No, it did not. And I also do not believe that the heads of state and scientists of the West were convinced by it. The defense minister did not say what went wrong or right, what must remain secret and what not, or what his proposal for the future would be.

It is like in the Chernobyl case. Before Chernobyl, a public investigation of the safety of nuclear reactors had not been carried out. Then came the nuclear catastrophe. Therefore, I called for an investigation of the safe control of our nuclear weapons at three levels: the internal, secret level; the public level of the Supreme Soviet; and the level of the international community. An investigation must supply enough information to guarantee that our weapons are under sufficient control.

[DIE PRESSE] What exactly do you propose?

[Velikhov] I propose discussions in several stages, to achieve a real guarantee for the safe control of Soviet nuclear potential. The first part of my proposal contains an internal investigation on the management, control, and safety of nuclear weapons in the Soviet Union. It is clearly difficult to hold such a detailed discussion with those who do not have a security clearance.

I asked President Gorbachev and the Russian Government to carry out this investigation. Gorbachev told me that, together with the Russian Republic, he established a relevant committee, which already started its work. We not only want to know exactly what happened during the coup, but also what may possibly happen in future crisis situations.

The second part of my proposal contains deliberations at the level of a committee of the legislature, as, for example, the U.S. Senate Armed Forces Committee, which would have access to selected secret information on our nuclear armed forces.

At the third level, the results from the investigation by the state committee are passed on to international scientists.

In addition to the efforts that are made to convince other nuclear powers of our stability, we have to reconsider the next step after the START Treaty. The START Treaty does not eliminate the danger of nuclear confrontation. The armed forces structures and the target lists remain the same. Only the number of weapons is somewhat smaller. The problem of the first strike continues to exist. In short, the conditions that might cause the military to make unsafe decisions continue to exist.

Now would also be a good time to discuss the complete elimination of tactical nuclear weapons. This is currently very realistic. Why do we still need them? Deterrence is based on strategic, not on tactical weapons.

Another very urgent question is how to put an end to the production of fissile material. The Soviet Union made this possible. We terminated all nuclear tests. I think that the radical reduction of strategic warheads is possible. Several hundred warheads on both sides could guarantee sufficient deterrence.

Today the Soviet Union has lost its claim as a superpower.

Therefore, I believe that now the United States and the Soviet Union can reduce the number of their warheads to that of the nuclear armed forces in France, Great Britain, and China.

I think that to stop the new threat of proliferation (of nuclear technology that can be used for military purposes—the editors), it is also time to revive the old Bernard Baruch Plan of 1946, which provided for the creation of an international agency that has all rights of supervision and control, from uranium mining to the treatment of radioactive waste, the whole fuel cycle. Every transport, every use or handling of uranium outside this international agency should be illegal.

Another point. Since the successful use of Patriot missiles in the Gulf war, there have been considerations of tearing the ABM Treaty (Antiballistic Missile Treaty—the editors) up. I am against it. Instead, we should stop the proliferation of new missile technology, nuclear material, and nuclear weapons.

[DIE PRESSE] The issue of the role of the republics and the nuclear weapons in the new union is currently being discussed.

[Velikhov] Today the republics do not have direct access to nuclear weapons.

[DIE PRESSE] How can Russian President Boris Yeltsin say that he will transfer all nuclear weapons to Russian territory?

[Velikhov] He must have said this in the euphoria of victory. This question is very delicate for Russia because almost the whole nuclear industry is situated in this republic. It is very difficult to differentiate between the civilian and the military use of nuclear energy. We never made a difference in the fuel cycle.

Of course, we have several plants for the production of warheads. But uranium mining, processing, enrichment, and waste management are handled together by mixing civilian and military purposes. This is the structure. Because of the high degree of secrecy before the coup, Yeltsin does not have any firsthand information on how all this is organized. Only Gorbachev, as the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, has this knowledge.

Now, with Russia's important decision to assume control over its resources, the problem arises. The decision on what will happen to the nuclear weapons cannot be made by Yeltsin alone. It must be supported by many people, even by the international community. Among others, the international community should assume a firm attitude and demand that the republics, particularly Russia, sign the Nonproliferation Treaty as a condition for the recognition of their independence.

In my opinion, it is wrong to simply transfer the status of a superpower from the Soviet Union to Russia. If we permit the Russian Republic to assume control over these nuclear weapons, we will face a far more difficult situation in some years. As a Russian, I like most Russian people, and I no longer want to be a target of nuclear weapons.

[DIE PRESSE] What do you expect from the West?

[Velikhov] The West should be against the transfer of nuclear weapons to Russia and instead try to come to an agreement with the central power on the radical reduction of nuclear weapons.

[DIE PRESSE] When do you expect the committee report to be presented? What will happen then?

[Velikhov] The new Supreme Soviet will be convened on 2 October.

I hope that the first item on the agenda will be that the new committee for defense and national security discusses the report on nuclear arms control with the state committee.

If we do not fulfill the international community's requirements regarding confidence, it might again have an eye to nuclear defense and antimissile missiles or similar crazy things.

The old parliamentary committee for defense and national security was dissolved on my initiative. Among its members were Anatoliy Lukyanov, Mikhail Moiseyev, and others from the Central Committee and the Defense Ministry who blocked real progress in arms control.

[DIE PRESSE] Would you go so far as not only to agree to the internationalization of nuclear energy, but also to the internationalization of Soviet nuclear weapons?

[Velikhov] This is more acceptable for us than for the West. However, it is impossible for the Soviet nuclear weapons to be under UN control if all other nuclear weapons are under national control. The West is not yet prepared for it. It is not even prepared for a comprehensive nuclear test freeze. At such a favorable moment, this is a pity.

Tighter Control Over Biological Weapons Sought

LD1309194291 Moscow TASS in English 0759 GMT 13 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Sergey Sedov]

[Text] Geneva September 13 TASS—Sergey Batsanov, head of the Soviet delegation at the third conference to review the international convention on the prohibition of the development and stockpiling of bactereological and toxin weapons and on their destruction, which is in session in the Geneva Palace of Nations, made a statement at the conference's regular plenary meeting on Thursday.

The statement says the USSR calls for developing new drastic confidence-building measures and creating more

effective mechanisms to verify compliance with the basic provisions of the convention by the signatory states.

Batsanov said the USSR lays immense importance on honouring all international agreements in the disarmament field, including the basic provisions of such an important agreement as the international convention that outlawed this whole class of weapons of mass destruction—germ warfare agents.

Over the five-year period that has passed since the holding of the second review conference, the Soviet Union carried out vigorous work via diplomatic channels with over 50 states, prodding them to join the convention. Experts say the USSR's purposeful activity largely helped increase the number of states which ratified the convention to 118.

Batsanov also singled out several other directions to shore up the international agreement. He said one of the possible ways was to create reliable guarantees for the fulfillment by all signatory parties without exception of the international convention's provisions. The Soviet delegation fully supports proposals that have already been aired in several speeches that an effective verification mechanism should be created for this purpose.

To this end, Batsanov urged the participants in the conference to take the first step towards establishing a control body and forming a special team of experts to study this problem. In addition, Batsanov put to debate a proposal that a standing group be set up within the structure of the U.N. department on disarmament problems to process information about compliance with the accords already reached in the field of confidence-building measures and openness, which is supplied by the member-countries of the international convention.

Worldwide Issues

Pankin Sees Positive Shift in West's Aid Policy

OW1609165891 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1600 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Lately there have been positive shifts in the U.S. and other Western nations' stand on giving large-scale economic aid to the Soviet Union, said Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin in an exclusive interview with INTERFAX.

According to him, previously the U.S. declined to give aid until a schedule of transition to market economy is in place or even until the USSR actually launched the reform. However, during his recent Moscow meetings with Mikhail Gorbachev, Boris Yeltsin and me, said Pankin, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker emphasized that the U.S. was ready to give aid even if the barest outline of the economic and political programmes is in place. This will help western bankers to figure out "who can get aid, how much and on what terms."

Pankin expressed satisfaction with the desire of the republics to join forces on the resolution of the food problem and to coordinate their food imports. In the eyes of the outside world, said he, this is a major step forward that is likely to help break the deadlock on economic aid to the USSR.

Pankin said that on Tuesday Deputy Chairman of the Committee for the Operational Management of the National Economy Yuriy Luzhkov was flying to Brussels and London to negotiate food aid to the USSR with EC and the G-7 nations.

Pankin Briefing on Honecker, Baltics, Kuriles

PM1609162591 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Sep 91 Union Edition p 4

[Correspondent G. Charodeyev report: "Chile Refuses E. Honecker Asylum"]

[Text] USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs Press Center—This is the third news conference that new USSR Foreign Minister Boris Pankin has held in a week. "So many problems requiring detailed explanations have accumulated for our department," he stated.

The minister called the USSR State Council's decision to recognize the Baltic republics' independence one of the main events of recent days. According to him, a note had been received from Latvia containing a proposal to establish diplomatic relations with the USSR.

A POSTFACTUM correspondent asked him to confirm or deny the reports that have recently appeared in the press that Erich Honecker has allegedly already left the Soviet Union or is just about to move to another country...

"It is hard to solve this problem," the minister noted. "Reports have appeared in the press about the talks between President M. Gorbachev and Foreign Minister H.-D. Genscher, during which an agreement was supposedly reached to allow Honecker to fly to China or Chile. Journalists are citing either TASS or some mythical consular officer at the USSR Foreign Ministry. I want to stress that such information does not correspond to the facts. As far as I know our consular officers have made no statements concerning the former GDR leader's fate. And if someone did speak on this topic, he had no authority whatever to do so. I can confirm that this question was discussed at the talks with Genscher. But a solution has not yet been found," Pankin stressed.

In turn IZVESTIYA's editorial office received an AFP wire from Santiago which cites the Chilean Ministry of Foreign Affairs as stating that the Chilean authorities have officially refused to grant Erich Honecker political asylum.

An AKAHATA newspaper correspondent enquired: How great are the differences between Russia and the center regarding the transfer of the Kuril Islands to Japan?

Pankin replied that he saw no differences between Gorbachev and B. Yeltsin on this question. "On the whole our common position is to proceed toward the conclusion of a peace treaty with Japan and in the process of moving toward it to solve the problems which exist between the two countries."

Spokesman Gives Foreign Ministry Press Briefing

Describes Foreign Ministry Collegium

LD1609170491 Moscow TASS in English 1510 GMT 16 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondents Rostislav Gertsev and Igor Peskov]

[Text] Moscow September 16 TASS—At a regular briefing at the Soviet Foreign Ministry, Vitaliy Churkin, head of the Ministry's Information Directorate, informed journalists about the results of the work of the Ministry's leading bodies.

A meeting of the Council of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Republics took place here last Friday, with representatives of 11 republics attending, Churkin said. The ministry's newly-elected collegium met here on Saturday, he added.

The council and the collegium discussed matters connected with radical reorganisation of the activities of the country's Foreign Ministry and worked out plans for its practical work.

The Ministry's collegium decided to set up a working group to draft a temporary statute of the Council of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the USSR and Republics before the end of October.

The collegium also decided to form the council's executive secretariat (headed by Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Valeriy Nikolayenko) and draw up a document on the distribution of competence between the USSR Foreign Ministry and republican ministries.

Matters concerning the functioning of Soviet institutions abroad were also considered. The collegium decided, in particular, to renew and reorganise the activities of diplomatic and consular institutions as soon as possible, with due regard for all-union and republican interests.

The collegium decided that the duration of an ambassadorial assignment should not be longer than four to five years, with an ambassadorial appointment subject to endorsement by the Council of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the USSR and Republics.

In addition, the collegium decided to reconsider the Ministry's instructions on personnel matters and finalise the drafting of a diplomatic service bill.

Churkin announced a new composition of the collegium of the Soviet Foreign Ministry: Along with Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin, it consists of First Deputy Ministers Anatoliy Kovalev and Vladimir Petrovskiy, Deputy Ministers Aleksandr Belonogov, Yuriy Deryabin, Viktor Karpov, Valeriy Nikolayenko, Ernest Obminskiy, Aleksey Obukhov, Igor Rogachev and Boris Chaplin.

Apart from them, a number of chiefs of the USSR Foreign Ministry's directorates became members of the collegium and some deputies of the USSR and Russia parliaments have been invited.

Previews Pankin Visit to Sweden

LD1609170191 Moscow TASS in English 1645 GMT 16 Sep 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondents Rostislav Gertsev and Igor Peskov]

[Text] Moscow September 16 TASS—"The planned meeting between the Soviet and Swedish foreign ministers is another link in the chain of high-level contacts between our countries, which have intensified lately," a senior Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman said at a briefing here today. Vitaliy Churkin commented on Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin's working visit to Sweden, which begins on Tuesday.

Churkin said the Soviet minister would be received by Swedish parliament speaker Tage Peterson and Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson and is expected to hold talks with the Swedish foreign minister and meet leaders of major political parties.

There is a need to compare the two countries' approaches to European and international issues and build on the Soviet-Swedish dialogue, which "was always distinguished by candidness, mutual respect and being aimed at a specific result," Churkin said. He emphasised the important motive of the visit was to draw the Soviet public attention to the Swedish experience of economic and social development.

On reaction to Soviet-U.S. accords on Afghanistan in Kabul, Churkin noted that they "drew wide positive response in that country." Specifically, Afghan President Najibollah stated unequivocally that he fully approved the plan of action on an Afghan settlement contained in the statement adopted by the USSR and the U.S.

Churkin emphasised the Soviet Union was deeply satisfied that not only the Afghan leaders, but that country's paliament, various public organisations and associations came out in support of the Soviet-U.S. initiative. "There are all grounds to expect that the Afghan leadership will launch new initiatives shortly, which will make it possible to achieve a real political settlement." Churkin

expressed hope that the countries neighbouring on Afghanistan would follow the example of the USSR and the U.S. and would act with full determination to make their contribution towards an Afghan settlement.

Churkin then dwelt on the ongoing "open skies" talks. "The Soviet side proceeds from premise that the establishment of the 'open skies' regime should become a new large-scale measure of confidence-building and openness and is interested in the elaboration of this regime as soon as possible," Churkin said.

At the third round of the negotiations on "open skies" that ended on September 13, the parties succeeded in bringing their positions significantly closer on several key issues. The USSR hopes that going ahead with constructive work, the parties will manage to overcome the remaining differences, specifically those on the territory to be covered by the regime, observation flight quotas and their duration, Churkin said.

Asked to confirm information about Erich Honecker's assassination attempt, which appeared in the press, Churkin said: "I cannot either confirm or deny this information. However, I managed to clarify that he is all right now."

Israeli Delegation Meeting Possible

OW1609200591 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1845 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] USSR Foreign Ministry spokesman Vitaliy Churkin expressed the hope that after the USSR and the USA decided to stop arms supplies to the Afghan government and rebel forces, Afghanistan's neighbour nations would follow suit. A statement of the USSR Foreign Ministry spokesman that was made public at a Moscow briefing on Monday says that this step is certain to help defuse the situation in the region and put an end to the Afghan conflict.

According to Churkin, on Tuesday the Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin was leaving for New York as head of the Soviet delegation at the UN General Assembly session. He will make a stopover in Stockholm for talks with the Swedish leaders. Pankin will stay in New York till October 1 and may make a stopover en route back—but not in the Middle East, said Churkin. Pankin may pay a visit to Czechoslovakia, learned IF [INTERFAX].

Churkin spoke about the results of the sitting of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Sovereign Republics and a sitting of the collegium of the USSR Foreign Ministry and emphasized that Pankin had described both in an interview with IF's Diplomatic Panorama.

Asked by IF, Churkin did not rule out the possibility that the Soviet foreign minister or one of his deputies would meet with a delegation of the Israeli parliament that is currently visiting Moscow at the invitation of Russia's Supreme Soviet. He said that the meeting may cover economic and humanitarian issues, exit from and entry into the USSR and possibly, the establishment of diplomatic relations. Touching on the last issue, Churkin said that if the conference on the Middle East is convened, "the context would change, and the restoration of full-scale diplomatic relations between the USSR and Israel would be easier to accept within this context."

Views Cuba Withdrawal, Afghan Accord

LD1609231691 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 1930 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Report by correspondent Aleksandr Kozyr on news conference by USSR Foreign Ministry Spokesman Vitaliy Churkin with unidentified correspondents in the USSR Foreign Ministry Press Center in Moscow on 16 September; Churkin's comments recorded]

[Text] [Kozyr] USSR Foreign Ministry Spokesman Vitaliy Churkin began the briefing by discussing the work of the leading bodies of the country's foreign policy department. He reported that the new composition of the ministry's collegium was announced at its 14 September sitting. A working group was formed to work out a draft interim provision on the USSR Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and the republics. A decision was also made to work out a draft document allocating areas of competence between the Union and the republican foreign policy departments. The draft will be placed before the country's State Council for examination.

The question of Soviet overseas establishments was examined at the Foreign Ministry collegium. A decision was made to carry out quickly the renewal and reorganization of embassy and consulate activity, considering all-Union and republican interests. It was decided that one overseas ambassadorial tour of duty should not exceed four to five years.

On international affairs, Vitaliy Churkin said:

[Churkin] The joint Soviet-U.S. accords on Afghanistan gave rise to wide and positive response in that country. Afghan President Najibollah categorically stated his complete approval and support for the actions toward an Afghan settlement contained in the statement adopted by the USSR and the United States and for actions that create a basis for a decisive breakthrough in untangling this chronic regional conflict. The Afghan leadership drew the correct conclusion that the situation is entering a qualitatively new development stage, where a historic opportunity is opening for ending the senseless bloodshed, for resolving internal Afghan problems peacefully, and for restoring stability and peace on the long-suffering land of Afghanistan. The decision to stop arms deliveries is not being received as a departure by the Soviet Union from its line of support for the Afghan people. On the contrary, it is being perceived as a demonstration of resolve to do everything for the speediest normalization of the Afghan situation.

[Kozyr] The USSR Foreign Ministry spokesman made the following observation on the 46th UN General Assembly session, which begins tomorrow:

[Churkin] Republic representatives have been invited to join the USSR delegation at the 46th General Assembly session. Their involvement, together with the Union, in the United Nations is fully in keeping with the USSR Congress of People's Deputies decisions. The session's Soviet delegation will implement a policy aimed at developing the world's positive tendencies and at deepening the qualitatively new cooperation with all Western countries and with other leading states, including the matter of strengthening the UN's strategic role in the international relations structure which is coming into being.

[Kozyr] Vitaliy Churkin was asked many questions at the news briefing. Answering one about the USSR president's statement on his intention to start talks with Cuba on a stage by stage withdrawal of the Soviet military training brigade, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said:

[Churkin] We would like to stress that the Soviet proposal of talks with the Cuban leadership about withdrawing the small military contingent from Cuba—basically a training center not intended for carrying out any kind of combat tasks—is not a step circumventing the Cuban side and certainly not an action aimed at weakening Cuba's defense capability. In offering to discuss this question with Havana, we proceed first and foremost from the fact that the adoption of a coordinated decision as a result of bilateral talks would be an important goodwill gesture by Cuba to the USSR and a reflection of the countries' desire for genuine detente and the region's demilitarization and its transformation into a peaceful zone. Discussion of the issue's substance has not yet started.

[Kozyr] Churkin also dwelt on the fate of the Soviet television journalists who are missing in Yugoslavia:

[Churkin] So far, nothing new is known. I can only say that some very broad work is being done. Considerable efforts are being made by the embassy, jointly with the journalists present in the area. Residents are being questioned along with all possible witnesses, people who in theory could be in contact with them during their movements or in the places where they might in theory be located. Perhaps the only observation I can make—though it doesn't yet bring any particular joy—is that the spread of the searches, while it isn't being narrowed, is being confined to the fairly large area of territory where it is clear that they have been. Unfortunately, there isn't anything specific yet; there isn't any success from this search that I can report to you.

Denies Kazakhstan To Control Nuclear Arms

LD1709091191 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 0800 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] Kazakhstan will not control the nuclear weapons deployed on its territory, it has been announced by Vitaliy Churkin, spokesman for the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs, at a news conference in Moscow.

Commenting on Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev's statement that his republic will exercise independent control over various kinds of weapons, including nuclear ones, Vitaliy Churkin said there was no reason to worry about the issue.

Gorbachev Message to 41st Pugwash Conference

LD1709033291 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0302 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] [no dateline as received] Mikhail Gorbachev sent a message to the 41st Pugwash conference:

For the first time, the Pugwash Movement is holding its meeting in China. This is significant.

For more than four decades, the common human values proclaimed in the Russell-Einstein manifesto have united scientists troubled by the fate of civilization. Today these values are being built into the foundation of international politics.

Yet the legacy of the past, including in international and inter-ethnic relations and in the public consciousness, has still not been overcome. The coup d'etat of 19-21 August jeopardized all our democratic gains, and with them, the new thinking in foreign policy. The failure of the putsch inspires hope for an acceleration of democratic changes in international relations too. The new union which the peoples of our country will build on the boundless territory of Eurasia will facilitate this with even greater resolve.

I expect that the words and deeds of scientists who have set science against the forces of destruction and evil will redouble their irreplaceable contribution to the historic process of liberating humanity from militarism, enmity, and violence.

[signed] M. Gorbachev

Clarity of Foreign Policy Goals Stressed

PM1609153991 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Sep 91 First Edition p 3

[Observer Aleksandr Golts article under the "World Today: Problems and Views" rubric: "Does 'Space' Need Foreign Policy?"]

[Text] ...A specter is roaming around Europe. No, it is not the specter of communism, which was dealt a serious, if not mortal, blow by the August putsch. What is roaming about Europe today, and not just here, is the specter of a cold and hungry winter in the Soviet Union. And everyone, including "French radicals and German policemen," have united in their desire to counter this threat. Verily, our bureaucrats of the stagnation times

might turn green with envy. The question "On Preparations for Winter in the USSR" is now being heard not in the CPSU Central Committee Politburo but on Capitol Hill.

Indeed, hearings on the subject of emergency aid for the USSR have been organized in the House Armed Services Committee. For, in the opinion of U.S. legislators, the need for this aid is linked directly to U.S. national security. According to Committee Chairman L. Aspin, the United States must without delay set aside $1 billion from the reductions in the Pentagon budget in order to help stabilize the situation in our country.

And Aspin is not alone. New aid plans are currently being discussed in Moscow with our leaders by the leaders of Western countries' foreign policy departments.

However, the enthusiasm of those who are ready to give us aid rapidly fades as soon as the time for practical decisions comes. I do not intend to rebuke the West. The thing is that the present muddle caused by the disintegration of a great power is, for the time being, keeping them from granting large-scale aid. Thus, the USSR president declares that both emergency aid and credits will be allocated within the framework of interrepublic organs, while the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] president points out no less firmly that Russia will decide these questions independently.

There has been an appropriate response. Business is already ignoring not only Moscow's appeals but also the pressing recommendations of its own leaders. For example, President Bush announced the immediate allocation of $315 million as credit guarantees for the purchase of agricultural output. However, according to a press report, not one U.S. or foreign bank has applied for these guarantees. And so grain is not being prepared for delivery.

Uncertainty over who in the USSR takes responsibility with regard to a particular international question has essentially pushed into the background the topics of the Conference on the Human Dimension which has just opened in Moscow within the CSCE framework. The leaders of the foreign policy departments of the United States and European countries have come to us not only and not so much in order to participate in this forum. In dozens of meetings with representatives of various USSR political circles J. Baker and his colleagues are essentially trying to determine which way the Soviet Union is moving.

At the opening of the conference the USSR president spoke very convincingly about how positive the role will be of the Union of Sovereign States which is to come into being in the Eurasian space. I readily believe it. But all the sudden shifts of the present period show very clearly the need for definiteness and clarity in foreign policy matters during the transitional period. At first glance such clarity would appear to exist. USSR Foreign Minister B. Pankin has emphasized that foreign policy activity will be built on two levels. In this a coordinating function is allocated to the Union Foreign Ministry. But the republic foreign ministries will tackle specific problems.

And this is logical. At the moment when a former state becomes a "space"—whether economic or military-strategic—foreign policy shifts to where the power lies. And this cardinal shift cannot fail to affect the essence of our foreign policy course. And here we enter the sphere of suppositions, as there is not yet any real division of responsibility.

I believe that the changes that will take place in foreign policy will make it less ostentatious and more practical. It is obvious today that the Soviet Union—the "superpower" obsessed by messianic ideas—is no more. For not only do we not possess the means to assert our views (genuine interests are a special case) throughout the world. We simply do not have such ideas.

But this is what is curious. Having rejected in principle the desire to extend our influence throughout the world, we continue to cling to the remnants of the erstwhile system. And this circumstance cannot fail to give rise to doubts among our partners. Indeed, how is it possible to seek massive aid and at the same time spend millions on selective support for other countries! I am sure that not one sovereign republic will allow funds to be spent on support for such regimes.

There is another circumstance, to which THE NEW YORK TIMES drew attention: "In connection with the Soviet Union's conversion from a monolithic superpower into a frail confederation of republics, the United States is evidently losing not only a superpower opponent but also a partner in resolving international conflicts following the end of the cold war."

In previous years, one way or another, our country had a bearing on virtually any regional conflict. By this logic the USSR must now take an active part in settling them: in Cambodia and the Near East, in Central America and Africa. Let us be frank, however: In a state of semicollapse our participation in a settlement is exclusively of a nominal nature. The USSR's active role essentially ended the day and hour that we stopped weapons deliveries to regions of conflicts and stopped sending military advisers there. I very much doubt that Russia or the Ukraine will deem it acceptable in the future to fund participation in such activity. (At the same time I will make the reservation that such an approach, so it seems to me, must in no way abrogate the obligations already assumed by the Soviet Union). And, in general, I suspect that the Soviet diplomatic presence on all continents (if this is going to be implemented through the Union Foreign Ministry) will also be curtailed—which, however, does not rule out a steep increase in the republics' representation.

On the other hand, the transfer of foreign policy relations to a more practical footing must lead to the improvement and development of our ties with our former

Warsaw Pact allies. Life has very quickly proved to them and us that collaboration and cooperation between neighboring countries is certainly not the sinister invention of Stalin. And it is easier and simpler for the Ukraine, Russia, and Belorussia, which bear no responsibility either for Katyn or for 1956 or 1968, to restore and strengthen these ties.

It seems that the sovereign republics will also find a common language more quickly with certain eastern neighbors. Evidence of this is provided by the successful visit to Japan of R. Khasbulatov, acting chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet. The thesis which he advanced with regard to abandoning "the relationship of victor and vanquished in World War II" was clearly to Tokyo's liking.

Things are more complex with regard to the United States and a number of industrial powers which are not our neighbors. For all their desire to help democracy and for all their joy at the collapse of communism, their interest in us lies in the military-political sphere above all. And it is right here that uncertainty reigns. The opinion expressed in the pages of THE WASHINGTON POST by F. Hoffman [name as transliterated], an expert in the national security sphere, and by G. Rouen [name as transliterated], former U.S. assistant defense secretary, is no coincidence in this connection. "The danger of a nuclear attack has not disappeared," the authors believe. "On the contrary, in a certain respect it might be increasing. The Soviet strategic nuclear forces exist and are still capable of wiping the United States off the face of the earth with a small number of these arms, and considerable political instability remains."

It is also symptomatic that, in answering an NBC question as to whether President Bush is ready to send the strategic offensive arms treaty to the Senate for ratification, when it is not clear who in the USSR controls the arsenals of arms, White House Chief of Staff J. Sununu said that the President has not made a final decision.

I believe that the USSR Foreign Ministry's priority task in the immediate future (of course, after powers have been divided between the center and the sovereign states) will be to make these issues completely clear. As soon as the republics express the sensible desire to conduct a unified defense within the framework of a unified economic space, the Foreign Ministry will be left, as a result, mostly with questions connected in one way or another with ensuring security and with disarmament topics.

As for coordination, it seems that this too will be concentrated on whether or not the approaches of the sovereign states correspond to commitments assumed earlier by the Soviet Union. For it is precisely compliance with these commitments that is the indispensable condition laid down by our partners. But these commitments, too, lie mostly in the military sphere. It was no coincidence that A. Kozyrev, leader of the Russian foreign policy department, declared in a Deutsche Welle interview that, if a unified army exists, then a unified diplomatic service must also exist. In this context it is easy to think that the USSR Foreign Ministry might be headed by a general...

If you speak in earnest about what kind of foreign policy the Soviet Union and the sovereign republics must have during this complex transitional period, you clearly understand that it—this foreign policy—is needed not in order to create chimeras like "high prestige in the international arena" nor to gratify the ambitions of particular leaders by ensuring planetary recognition of their services. It is needed in order to ensure, at a difficult, critical moment, the external conditions that will enable people to lead a slightly easier life. And this is why we need a well-conceived, concrete foreign policy today, during the transitional period. Even if it is the foreign policy of some "space."

United States & Canada

Bush, Kohl Hold Talks on Soviet Aid

LD1609212891 Moscow TASS in English 2117 GMT 16 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Andrey Fedyashin]

[Text] Washington September 17 TASS—U.S. President George Bush and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl have agreed that humanitarian, food and medical aid should be provided to the Soviet Union to help it through the coming winter, but they said they had not discussed specific aid packages.

Upon ending their talks on Monday, Bush and Kohl said their countries were ready to move ahead in this direction quickly, but they noted that it is premature to speak about larger economic aid to the Soviet Union and for this it is necessary to balance relations between the centre and republics.

Secretary Baker Visits KGB Headquarters

PM1609131991 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Sep 91 Union Edition p 2

[Report by S. Mostovshchikov: U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Lubyanka at Last"]

[Text] On 13 September 1991, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker met in a perfectly friendly manner with USSR KGB Chairman Vadim Bakatin in his Lubyanka office.

Journalists had five minutes for questions and to view the meeting place. The inspection showed that Vadim Bakatin has a spacious office, while the answers to the questions showed that the U.S. secretary of state and the KGB chairman consider what is happening a fantastic event. According to James Baker, the meeting with Bakatin symbolizes the fact that truly serious changes have occurred in relations between the United States and

the USSR. It had been hard to ever imagine that he, James Baker, would one day find himself at the KGB.

The U.S. secretary of state and the KGB chairman reported nothing of substance on the subject of their first meeting. Most likely, there had been no plans to resolve questions of any specific accords there. James Baker, however, remarked that the U.S. side is interested in secret Soviet archives and, in particular, data on U.S. servicemen who have hitherto been classified missing.

On the same day U.S. Secretary of State Baker met with USSR Defense Minister Ye. Shaposhnikov.

U.S. Embassy 'Solidarity' During Coup Praised

PM1309112791 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 12 Sep 91 Single Edition p 1

["Letter to the Issue" by S. Peruanskiy, Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic people's deputy: "Just Who Saved Russia?"]

[Text] We are trying hard to give meaning to the three fateful August days. Here and there—from high rostrums, from newspaper pages, and television screens—a new slogan is being heard: Muscovites saved Russia. We bow down low to the Muscovites for their heroic selflessness. But the Muscovites' efforts alone would not have been enough to break the conspirators' will. Without resolute support for the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic president, from more than 60 percent of the republic's regions, without miners' strikes, and without Army subunits' siding with the legitimate power, the junta would have acted more decisively and brazenly. If Muscovites saved Russia, then Russia saved Muscovites from considerably greater casualties.

The lightning reaction of U.S. President Bush and the leaders of Britain, Germany, France, and other countries paralyzed the conspirators' will no less than the barricades outside the "White House." The ground really began to blaze beneath the feet of the impostors.

Not many people know this fact: During the night of 20-21 August, U.S. Embassy staffers parked their vehicles in such a way that the pavement of one of the streets leading to the "White House" was blocked, although a tank would have gone over them as if they were matchboxes. Let us say our Russian thank you to the foreign diplomats for their touching solidarity.

Russia was saved not by Muscovites alone. Russia was saved by Russia with the support of the world community of nations.

U.S. Military Presence in Cuba Questioned

LD1509142491 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1210 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Sergey Koshkin commentary]

[Text] During the news conference he held in Moscow jointly with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev announced the Soviet Union intended to negotiate the withdrawal of its brigade of army trainees from Cuba. Commentary by Sergey Koshkin.

The announcement comes as a logical step in the spirit of the new thinking in international relations, even though the Cuban Foreign Ministry feels the Soviet decision to withdraw the brigade is inadmissible under the existing bilateral treaties which demand that consultations or a preliminary warning precede such moves. The Cuban leaders regard the Soviet military presence as essential for the containment of potential U.S. aggression. The Cuban position is understandable given the continued and, in Cuba's view, illegitimate presence of the Pentagon's Guantanamo base on Cuba's territory. Now that the Soviet Union has decided to withdraw its troops from Cuba it would be logical to expect reciprocal moves from the United States. Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin has told newsmen in Moscow this country is counting on such moves. Washington could, as a first step, reduce its presence in Guantanamo as fewer ships visit the base, and issue preliminary warnings about military exercises in the area.

Congressmen Cited on Defense Expenditures

LD1109033591 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 2300 GMT 9 Sep 91

[Vladislav Kozyakov commentary]

[Text] At the U.S. Congress full session to be convened this week, a number of senators and congressmen intend to speak in favor of cutting military expenditure. Commentary by Vladislav Kozyakov, and this is what he writes:

Public attention was drawn to proposals by the House Armed Services Committee chairman, Les Aspin, to cut the Pentagon military budget by $1 billion and channel the money for economic aid to the Soviet Union. Some other congressmen advanced similar ideas.

There are reasons to believe this approach has got wide support. The idea behind it is simple. Since the situation in the Soviet Union has changed radically, the United States should respond, changing its approach to ensuring the country's security. It is better to channel a share of money released from arms production to maintain stability and advance reforms in the Soviet Union than to continue wasting hundreds of billions dollars in the arms race.

The leaders of the Democratic Party appear willing to make this idea a driving force in their struggle for the White House in the coming elections. At any rate the former Massachusetts senator, Paul Tsongas, who wishes to become the Democratic Party nominee has spoken to this effect. Addressing the news conference in Washington, he has called on the administration to cut the

U.S. military budget and channel part of the money to aid Soviet Union. He said that the United States was concerned that the economic chaos in the Soviet Union and recently emerging independent republics be resolved.

Certainly aid to the Soviet people isn't the only thing that matters. The Democratic strategists say that new priorities in budget spending may help to resolve many international problems such as unemployment, better educational system, and medical care. In addition there is the question of tax fairness, that is, easing the tax burden on the citizens with low and average incomes. According to the chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, Vic Fazio, events in the Soviet Union are going to change the politics in the United States as well.

So cutting military expenditure is on the agenda in both countries. It's time to replace military rivalry with broad economic cooperation. And this is now being discussed in both Washington and Moscow. During the recent visit to Moscow of the British prime minister, John Major, Presidents Gorbachev and Yeltsin told him the Soviet Union is planning further drastic cuts in defense expenditure. Colorado Governor Roy Romer has said that if the two countries can take the billions spent in both nations during the last 20 years in armaments they can use them for human needs, and the time for this has come.

Northeast Asia

TASS Carries Gorbachev Japanese TV Interview

LD1609181691 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1540 GMT 16 Sep 91

["Mikhail Gorbachev's interview for Japanese Radio-TV Company TBS"—TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, 16 Sep (TASS)—The USSR president presented Japanese cosmonauts Akiyama and Kikuchi with the Order of Friendship of Peoples awards during his visit to Japan. Japan's TBS Radio-Television Company made commemorative medals to mark the flight. Project Director T. Aoki in the Kremlin today presented one such medal to Mikhail Gorbachev, which he said was a mark "of respect for you and—through you—for Soviet cosmonautics and the Soviet people, thanks to the achievements the Japanese journalist was able to make on a Soviet spaceship."

The TBS representative asked the USSR president several questions:

[TBS] You are always opening fresh pages in history with your bold decisions. Perestroyka, proclaimed six years ago, opened the way for democratization of Soviet society; the "new thinking" opened the way for nuclear disarmament and ended the cold war. When you were in the Crimea during the coup—in an extreme situation, cut off—you did not give in to the coupists; thus, we think you saved your people. You recently took the bold step of dissolving the CPSU Central Committee. What are your future intentions?

[Gorbachev] Primarily, we must ensure that what we started in 1985 continues. A favorable chance for this has now opened, although we do have many difficulties that must not be understated and that must be seen. We face the hard work necessary to move further down the road of democratic transformations.

[TBS] What was the main reason behind dissolving the CPSU Central Committee?

[Gorbachev] First, let us be precise: I did not dissolve the CPSU Central Committee; that is not within my power. I merely said that, under present circumstances, the Central Committee ought to dissolve itself and let the communists themselves—in the rayons, towns, and republics—set up organizing committees and think about how to reform the party to promote democratic transformations. My step was dictated by the fact that at the time the coup was carried out, the CPSU Central Committee Secretariat and Politburo did not adopt a firm stand in defense of perestroyka and the drive for transformation and, thereby, simply predetermined their departure from the political arena. I stress everywhere and would like to reiterate in this conversation that I have great sympathy for the communists: They must choose at this difficult time. I hope that the best of them will form some organization, movement, or party and join the ranks of forces fighting to continue the transformations. This is already taking place: 2.5 million Communists have already united in the Russian Party around Rutskoy's movement.

[TBS] Apprehension recently emerged in Japan regarding dictatorship from the left by Boris Yeltsin. Do you have such fears?

[Gorbachev] I think this impression came with the fact that the Russian leadership and Yeltsin himself had to assume the functions of the country's president and other all-union bodies in an emergency to revoke the decisions and orders of the impostors who violated the Constitution. Everything is now getting back to normal; cooperation between the republics has been revived, and Russia is playing a unifying role in this. You know, not everything goes smoothly and without a hitch at such drastic times, and there can be unevenness both in what is done and in the decisions made. This does happen and not just with Yeltsin. It has been the case for me and for others. This is nothing to be shy about; it ought to be said. However, the most important thing is the commitment of Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin and all those close to him to continuing the transformations. Time will sort out everything else. At least, I hope that will be the case.

[TBS] The Russian Supreme Soviet chairman recently visited Japan, where he expressed the opinion that the latest events would accelerate conclusion of a peace

treaty between our countries and resolution of certain problems. What do you think?

[Gorbachev] I don't know exactly what R. Khasbulatov said; I still have to read this. I would like to confirm what I spoke to Prime Minister T. Kaifu about: We must follow the path of rapprochement and tackle all issues in that framework, including those connected with the peace treaty. We must move openly to accommodate one another without fear, without hiding our heads in the sand or under our wing, as they say. I think what is happening now, following the defeat of the coup and the opening up of new opportunities for change, provides an extra impetus and catalyzes this process. Let us cooperate; I am confident that this is the right path.

[TBS] Will you stand at the next election for Union president?

[Gorbachev] We still must have a treaty, and then it will be clear who needs electing and when. You can ask me this then.

The TBS representative handed Mikhail Gorbachev a personal letter from T. Kaifu. For his part, the USSR president asked for his best wishes to be conveyed to the prime minister and the people of Japan.

Medvedev Conveys Gorbachev Message to ROK

LD1709060991 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0545 GMT 17 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Vladimir Solontsev]

[Text] Tokyo, 17 Sep (TASS)—Today in Seoul, No Tae-u, president of the Republic of Korea, received the USSR president's special representative, Vadim Medvedev, who handed the head of the South Korean Administration a personal message from Mikhail Gorbachev. This expresses profound gratitude for the support shown during the days of the anti-state coup in the Soviet Union and hope for the further strengthening of friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

During the five-day visit which started on 16 September, Vadim Medvedev will meet a number of other representatives of the Seoul administration and leaders of business circles, and will discuss with them ways to further develop Soviet-South Korean contacts.

ROK Troop Reduction Said 'Timely' Gesture

SK1609141891 Moscow Radio Moscow in Korean 1100 GMT 8 Sep 91

[Commentary by Alekseyev from the "Focus on Asia" program]

[Text] The ROK Defense Ministry has announced a plan to change its system of recruiting conscripts effective 1 January 1993.

KYODO stressed that such a measure would result in a reduction of approximately 130,000 soldiers.

Station commentator Alekseyev noted:

This means that the total number of the ROK Army, Navy, and Air Force will amount to about 600,000. It is difficult to say how this will compare with the number of soldiers in the DPRK. As is well-known, Pyongyang has published no statistics concerning this.

According to ROK and U.S. military specialists, the DPRK presently has Armed Forces superior to those in the ROK. Even the 43,000 U.S. troops stationed on the Korean peninsula must be taken into consideration.

About 1,000 nuclear bombs are now under their control. In this context, it is not important whether the combat capabilities of the North and South are balanced or not in terms of quality and quantity. This is because no one in Pyongyang and Seoul take the possibility of military clashes between the North and South seriously. In fact, even the U.S. Forces Command rules out such a possibility.

Based on this, the United States has recently made a decision on a phased reduction of 7,000 U.S. troops stationed in the ROK. The decision by the ROK Defense Ministry to reduce the troops by 130,000 has something to do with the (?absence) of practical threat to the security of the ROK.

As is noted in the KYODO report, it is because the situation on the Korean peninsula and in the Far East has improved as a whole that Seoul has taken such a step.

I believe it is impossible to explain Seoul's act in terms of military strategy. Seoul's decision can be seen as a goodwill gesture toward Pyongyang. This gesture can also be said to be a very timely one.

After a long hiatus, North-South prime ministerial talks are expected to be resumed by the end of this October. Pyongyang has hinted on several occasions that whether the (?talks will be successful or not) depends largely on the willingness of the ROK to emulate the DPRK's example when reducing 100,000 [figure as heard] troops.

I would like to note the fact that Seoul has taken some other steps as well. With U.S. approval, Seoul has expressed its willingness to discuss U.S. nuclear weapons believed to have been deployed in the ROK, an issue of concern to Pyongyang, in talks with the DPRK.

Near East & South Asia

Primakov Continues Tour of Middle East

Visits Abu Dhabi

PM1609114791 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Sep 91 Single Edition p 4

[Report from TASS, REUTER, FRANCE PRESSE roundup under "24 Hours on Our Planet" rubric: "Near East"]

[Text] Yegveniy Primakov, the USSR president's special envoy who is visiting countries in the Near East, has announced in Abu Dhabi that the Soviet Union "has a new idea for building relations with the Arab states which is based on developing and deepening economic links." He expressed the hope that relations between the USSR and the wealthy countries of the Persian Gulf will broaden.

Message to Kuwaiti Amir

LD1609184491 Moscow TASS in English 1543 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] London September 16 TASS—Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah today received Yevgeniy Primakov, visiting personal envoy of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. The Soviet envoy delivered Gorbachev's message to the amir, the REUTER news agency reports from Kuwait.

Primakov had arrived in Kuwait on Sunday within the framework of his tour of countries in the Near and Middle East. During the talks on Sunday, REUTER points out, Kuwaiti officials expressed gratitude to the Soviet Union for its diplomatic support to Kuwait during the Gulf crisis and stated that the emirate would welcome the Soviet Union's involvement in plans to rehabilitate the country that had suffered from the Iraqi occupation and military actions.

Israel Said Obstacle to Baker's Mideast Mission

LD1709081991 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1210 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Leonard Rassadin commentary]

[Text] This is Mr. Baker's seventh tour of Israel and a number of other countries in the Middle East. His chief aim is to remove obstacles still standing in the way of a peace conference on the Middle East. If he succeeds the conference may be convened as early as next month.

I believe that the greatest problems the United States secretary of state will have to deal with will be in Israel, the first leg of his tour. The Israeli leaders are strongly against the participation of the Palestine Liberation Organization and also of Palestinians living abroad, or those having a background in East Jerusalem, in the Middle East peace conference. If only that was the sole problem. Israel says it will never leave the Arab territories it occupied in 1967, including East Jerusalem.

Meanwhile the Arabs have been saying they are firm in their intention to have back all their territories occupied by Israeli troops, and for a good reason—resolutions by the United Nations Security Council.

The current worsening of the United States-Israeli relations, too, is likely to have its effect on Mr. Baker's talks in Israel. This mini-crisis follows President Bush's decision to put off until January a $10 billion loan to Israel it would use to settle immigrants from the Soviet Union. When the Israeli Cabinet of Ministers met on Sunday the minister without portfolio, Rehavam Ze'evi, representing the ultra-right party Moledet in the coalition cabinet, made unprecedented attacks against President Bush, calling him an anti-Semite and a liar. He urged the Israeli leadership to refuse to take part in the Middle East conference altogether. However, REUTER says his demand was given the cold shoulder.

Will Mr. Baker's seventh tour of the Middle East be also his last one before the Middle East peace conference is convened? It remains to be seen. In any case he is not alone in his efforts. The Soviet president's special envoy Yevgeniy Primakov, too, is touring a number of countries of the Middle East and southwest Asia and having negotiations on the same issue. Soviet-United States cooperation looks like a major factor for getting Middle East peace talks going soon in order to bring a prolonged crisis to an end.

Iranians Halt Tehran-Moscow Rail Traffic

PM1709095191 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Sep 91 Single Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Iran-USSR"]

[Text] Passenger rail traffic on the Tehran-Moscow and Moscow-Tehran route has been suspended. This decision has been reached by the Iranian railroad leadership in connection with the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh. An official report disseminated here by the IRNA agency states that a few days ago a "group of unknown persons attacked a train in the Republic of Azerbaijan and took passengers hostage."

Commitments to Kabul 'Have To Be Honored'

PM1709100791 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Sep 91 Union Edition p 5

[Article by international observer V. Skosyrev: "We Cannot Wash Our Hands and Wait"]

[Text] However dramatically perestroyka develops, no one will deny that, thanks to it, we were able to fulfill at least one cherished desire of the people and withdraw our boys from Afghanistan. However, that event in itself still did not mean an end to the Soviet Union's involvement in the internal Afghan conflict. Even today the sacred question "What is to be done with Afghanistan?" remains no less acute than it was two years ago, when our units withdrew from there.

The major breakthrough after the Geneva agreements on Afghanistan were signed in April 1988 was undoubtedly the joint statement issued by the USSR foreign minister and the U.S. secretary of state following talks in Moscow. The program of measures for a political settlement of the Afghan conflict, providing for the cessation of Soviet and U.S. weapons deliveries to that country as of 1 January 1992, opens up the way to peace in Afghanistan. However, many obstacles still have to be surmounted.

I have before me an AP telegram. Moscow will fulfill its agreements with the Najibollah government, the agency reports, citing a statement by unnamed Soviet deputies who visited Kabul. And, in confirmation, it reports that 115 trucks have just arrived there, delivering approximately 2,100 tonnes of food from the USSR.

It is not hard to imagine what kind of response this information will elicit from the reader. He will not feel joy, to put it mildly. And he will, of course, be right if he asks this question: How long are we going to give away to others something that we ourselves lack? True, the other side—the mujahidin—is still being fed and equipped by the United States, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia.

But this is poor justification for our policy toward Kabul. Somehow I have never heard that there have been interruptions in the supply of meat and consumer goods in the United States, Saudi Arabia, or even Pakistan. And whereas the Americans and Saudis are continuing to support their proteges in Afghanistan without straining themselves particularly, for our disintegrating state such a mission is turning into a heavy burden.

This is the first argument being heard increasingly frequently in our press in favor of stopping deliveries to Kabul. There is another, probably more weighty argument. We are helping not an Afghan government elected by free will but a regime that has no broad social base and that is underpinned by, above all, the army, the security organs, and supporters of the communists (they used to be called members of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, now the Fatherland Party).

It is in fact hard to argue against this thesis. Although it would not be a bad thing to recall the circumstances under which Najibollah came to head the regime. That happened in 1986 when Moscow, disappointed in Babrak Karmal but still anticipating at least a drawn outcome to the war, placed the leader of the security service at the helm. According to the ideas that held sway in Moscow at that time, it was perfectly possible to rely on such a person. But we will see something else too: Najibollah showed courage and the ability to rally the regime's supporters in the hour of danger. And later it was he who gave the "go-ahead" for the withdrawal of our units, although observers in our country and in the West unanimously predicted that the capital would fall within a matter of weeks without Soviet military cover. In actual fact, neither Kabul nor the major provincial centers fell, and for that reason our troops' retreat in no way ressembled the Americans' flight from besieged Saigon in 1975.

But even if we are considerably obliged to the president of Afghanistan, that is still no reason to stand by him to the end. The stigma of head of the Ministry of State Security has firmly stuck to him, and it is no coincidence that the mujahidin leaders are unwilling to enter into talks with him.

The conclusion suggested by everything said above is: It is time to rectify past mistakes and end support for Kabul, simply and logically. The trouble is that the simple and obvious solutions are not always the best solutions. Let us start with the fact that the forces opposed to Najibollah certainly cannot be called devotees of democracy. On the contrary, according to assessments by Pakistani journalists, approximately 40 percent of the partisans are under the influence of G. Hikmatyar, leader of the fundamentalist Islamic party.

During a trip to Pakistan last year, I had a telephone conversation with Hikmatyar and tried to ascertain what fate he was preparing for those Afghans who were fighting on the government's side. My interlocutor promised amnesty for those who laid down their arms and a trial for those who continued the struggle. However, when Khowst and other cities fell into mujahidin hands, there was no question of any trial for government supporters. On the contrary, the capture of the cities was accompanied by an orgy of violence and pillage.

The question arises: Are we, like Pontius Pilate, prepared to wash our hands while watching the tragedy of people who long ago—whole decades ago—came to believe in our ideals (which proved false) and fought together with us in the belief that the Soviet Union would defend their revolution against enemies? If we are prepared for that, then away with doubts. Let us write them off and await the outcome. We will, of course, have to lock the border shut. But it is not clear whether we will succeed.

If Islamic fundamentalists really do take Kabul, who knows whether they will be tempted to try to hoist the prophet's green banner within our borders too? In any event, it must be borne in mind that a revival of religious feeling is taking place in our Central Asian republics, which have proclaimed sovereignty after seven decades of communist power, and Islamic political parties are being formed, sometimes illegally. In my view, we would not be frightened by this if there were not armed groups operating next door, south of the Amu Darya, whose leaders consider the concepts of political pluralism and freedom of conscience blasphemous. Moreover, partisans have already repeatedly infiltrated our territory...

Of course, there is no justification for the nine years of Soviet aggression. And the mujahidin, who were fighting on their own land, deserve respect. But I am afraid that, until an accord with them is reached, the "zero option," i.e. our complete withdrawal from involvement in our neighbor's affairs, promises nothing good either. Not for the Afghans themselves nor for the security of the new Union's southern borders.

Consequently, however hard this may be, the commitments adopted earlier have to be honored. But if this is so, at least we have the right to hear about the deliveries we are making, not from foreign agency reports, but from our own authorities. And let the people in Kabul remember that sooner or later there will be an end to aid.

If, for reconciliation with the opposition, it is necessary for Najibollah to go, let him go. The chief thing is to prevent a "bloodbath."

Moscow Persian Radio Views Afghan Peace Process

NC1709111791 Moscow in Persian to Iran 1430 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Sergey Salgirov commentary]

[Text] The Soviet Union and the United States have agreed not to supply arms to the fighting Afghan sides effective 1 January 1992. This important agreement, reflected in a joint communique issued at the end of discussions in Moscow between Boris Pankin, Soviet foreign minister, and James Baker, U.S. secretary of state, will certainly get attention from all sides searching for solutions in Afghanistan, including Iran. Sergey Salgirov will discuss his thoughts on this subject:

Iran always believed that the fact that both sides in Afghanistan were being supplied with Soviet and U.S. arms was one of the obstacles to solving this problem. Iranian Government officials and politicians considered the delivery of arms to be superpower interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, and they also believed it was dangerous for Iran. Tehran's policies toward its Afghan neighbor were based on this view. Iran overtly and clearly refused to support the Geneva Accords on Afghanistan. This did not mean, however, that it refused to look for a political solution to the problem. On the contrary, after the withdrawal of the Soviet Armed Forces from Afghanistan, Iran played a peace-seeking role in the problem.

Now that Soviet Union and the United States are making plans to end the bloodshed in Afghanistan, the possibility of expanding this role has emerged. In the joint Soviet-U.S. communique, the United Nations and Islamic countries are called on to cooperate with Afghans to bring about free and democratic elections. This is the only way to carry out the will of the people, make clear which political forces the people support, and give the people the opportunity to have a hand in their own destiny. It should also be pointed out that everyone, including Iran, admits that Afghans have a right to ensure their own fate without any interference from outside. There is no need to mention that Iran has immense influence among the Islamic countries, especially concerning the Afghan problem. It is hoped that the Iranian side maximizes its opportunities to assist Afghans in creating an impartial and authentic mechanism for convening the elections.

Iran, the Soviet Union, the United States, and other countries supported the famous UN peace program. In the conference held recently in Tehran, Iranian representatives put forth much effort to mobilize the Mojahedin to implement this plan. Some problems, however, namely the delivery of Soviet and U.S. arms to Afghanistan, prevented progress in this direction. We hope that following the publication of the joint Soviet-U.S. communique, that situation will improve.

East Europe

Foreign Ministry Urges Army Restraint in SFRY

LD1609220591 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1935 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Moscow, 16 Sep (TASS)—A USSR Foreign Ministry statement has been issued here, stating the following:

The escalation of combat operations in Yugoslavia, bringing increasing casualties and deprivations to the peoples of the friendly country, are being followed with growing alarm in the Soviet Union.

The most recent dismal episodes are the capture of the Yugoslav People's Army garrisons in Croatia and the intensification of combat operations involving major Army and aviation forces. A situation is being created where each new similar step by either side may lead to a full-scale fratricidal war.

No matter how acute the political or ethnic differences or state structure disputes might be, it is our firm conviction that they must not and cannot be solved by mutual acts of violence which merely give rise to new and more complex problems, bringing the danger of even more bitter conflicts.

Our appeal for a cease-fire, to implement their leadership decisions taken on 2 September, and to follow CSCE recommendations is addressed to all federal structures that bear direct responsibility for the fate of the republics and Yugoslav peoples. Our appeal is addressed to the Yugoslav People's Army, on whose restraint and consciousness of its responsibility much depends. We call upon the Croatian leadership to continue peaceful dialogue and not to resort ultimatums. We appeal to the Serbian leadership at this tragic time to facilitate a general cease-fire.

We are deeply convinced that the only way to settle Yugoslavia's problems lies in honest negotiations, patient dialogue to seek mutually acceptable solutions, new ways to live together, and cooperation in a single economic and legal area, while retaining links that have justified them historically. The Paris Charter for a New Europe, the CSCE documents and good offices and its direct recommendations to Yugoslavia provide a sound basis for such a productive dialogue on equal terms. We consider that all states party to the Helsinki process should, as far as possible, assist in putting an end to combat operations in Croatia, achieve rapid agreement between the warring parties, and establish political dialogue.

CPSU Archives Opened to Soviet, CSFR Historians

LD1409031291 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1300 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] The Czechoslovak trail in the archives of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR KGB will be investigated and studied by historians and specialists from Moscow and Prague. This arrangement was reached during meetings that CSFR Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier had in Moscow. For the same purpose the archives of our department in Smolenskaya Ploshchad [the USSR Foreign Ministry] will be opened up too. The most unexpected finds may be unearthed during the disclosure of the hitherto secret details and circumstances surrounding the so-called internationalist assistance by the five Warsaw Pact armies in August 1968 in Czechoslovakia. No small interest will be presented by all other documents which shed light in one way or another on unknown pages in the history of Soviet-Czechoslovak relations throughout the postwar period.

West Europe

Pankin on Visit to Sweden, Baltic Cooperation

OW1609174091 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1700 GMT 16 Sep 91

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" (DP) feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On September 17, Boris Pankin has been invited by the Swedish minister of foreign affairs to make an official visit there en route to the UN General Assembly.

The forthcoming visit, as "DP" learned at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, "can be regarded as a traditional meeting aiming to develop relations between the USSR and Sweden." The visit is particularly important in the light of the present situation in the USSR. B. Pankin intends to frankly inform the Swedish side about the changes that have taken place in the USSR.

The Soviet foreign minister will meet a "great variety of people." Mr. Pankin served for ten years in Sweden as the Soviet ambassador so that "he has many friends and acquaintances there." Mr. Pankin will meet the parliamentary chairman, the prime minister, the foreign minister, the leaders of the various political parties, representatives of various business groupings.

Many questions will be discussed, but the talks will concentrate on cooperation between the two countries at the opening session of UN, aiming at increasing the effectiveness of that organization.

Concerning the Baltic states, Mr. Pankin observed that there need be no discussion about their independence "as this question had already in principle been legally resolved. Now the emphasis should be on intergovermental cooperation in the Baltic region in which the USSR and the former Baltic republics will enjoy equal relations as independent states. The presidents of Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia in this capacity recently took part in a conferance "concerning the human dimension" in Moscow.

In this respect the USSR supported a Swedish proposal for the setting up of a regional conference of all the states on the Baltic Sea, with the aim of forming a Baltic Council. Mikhail Gorbachev discussed this question in detail when he met the ambassadors of the Scandinavian states. B. Pankin voiced his support for the idea during a recent meeting with the Finnish foreign minister.

B. Pankin emphasised that "there is now a real possibility of resolving a number of questions of great importance, the realisation of which could lead to real cooperation in the Baltics."

Shaposhnikov, Italian Counterpart Hold Talks

LD1709090291 Moscow TASS in English 1752 GMT 16 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Oleg Moskovskiy]

[Text] Moscow September 16 TASS—"During a meeting with the Italian colleague, I am planning to convince him that putschists have failed and democracy has won a victory in the country," Soviet Defence Minister Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov told TASS.

Shaposhnikov spoke before meeting Italian Defence Minister Virginio Rognoni, who had arrived in the Soviet Union on an official visit today.

"We have wonderful relations in the military sphere with the Italian side and we hope to develop them," Shaposhnikov said.

According to Shaposhnikov, the meeting is a manifestation of trust to Soviet perestroyka. "I will try to give a detailed account of the August 19-21 events in the Soviet Union," Shaposhnikov said.

In an atmosphere of mutual understanding, the Soviet and Italian defence ministers had a sincere talk.

Shaposhnikov gave a luncheon in honour of the Italian defence minister.

[Moscow TASS in English at 1739 GMT on 16 September carries an item on the Shaposhnikov-Rognoni meeting which adds:

"Upon the completion of their meeting, the Soviet and Italian defence ministers signed a joint statement on the creation of an international association of war memorial cooperation, 'war memorials'.

"Italian Defence Minister Virginio Rognoni said that they have signed an important document. According to Rognoni, the sides agreed with the status of burial places of Soviet militarymen and civilians in Italy and Italian military in the Soviet Union, who died during the Second World War."]

Latin America & Caribbean

GRANMA Editorial on Soviet Pullout Assessed

PM1609142991 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Sep 91 Union Edition p 4

[Report by correspondent A. Kamorin: "GRANMA's Thunder. Soviet Brigade's Withdrawal Not Only USSR's Business, Cuban Leadership Believes"]

[Text] Havana—The publication on 14 September of an editorial in the newspaper GRANMA entitled "Cuba Will Never Accept Being Handed Over or Sold to the United States" marks the end of an era in Soviet-Cuban relations.

I will point out that Cuba's sole daily newspaper carries editorials only in cases where it is necessary to reflect the viewpoint of the top leadership of the Communist Party and the country headed by Fidel Castro. The tone of the text, above all, is striking. The article is written in an irritated and at times even overtly caustic key with regard to the USSR and virtually puts the best friend and the "eternal enemy"—the Soviet Union and the United States—on a par with each other. The document is very prolix, although, if you leave to one side the slogans and excursions into history, its essence may be summed up in a few theses.

First, "the USSR's decision to withdraw its military unit from Cuba—a unilateral, unreserved decision made without prior consultations—is equivalent to a 'green light' for the aggressive anti-Cuban plans of the United States." The Cuban leadership plainly regards this action by the Soviets as a quite unjustified concession or even simply as capitulation in the face of U.S. pressure.

Second, GRANMA dismisses out of hand as "second-rate and not worthy of comment" the explanations given by the USSR foreign minister following the announcement of the upcoming troop withdrawal. Let us remind you that B.D. Pankin declared that our country expects countermeasures by Washington, aimed at reducing tension around Cuba.

Third, Cuba declares that, whatever action the USSR may take in the future, under no circumstances will Cuba forego the principles of Cuban socialism. As the editorial puts it: "We know that our material resources are limited and that we have to make a truly heroic and superhuman effort. However, we are ready to encounter any consequences from principled positions."

Finally, the chief point: Accepting the news of the troop withdrawal as a fait accompli, Cuba advances its terms. It is asserted, above all, that the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo, whose elimination the republic's government has now been insisting upon for 30 years now, must be removed from the island's territory simultaneously with the Soviet brigade. Also, according to the opinion of the Cuban authorities, "all questions must be discussed with us as an interested party." Obviously, it should be understood that Cuba is insisting on the holding of trilateral talks inasmuch as the USSR, which will begin consultations with the Cuban authorities in the very near future, is not in a position to resolve the Guantanamo issue. Moreover, evidently no longer trusting either of the superpowers, Havana is insisting that a possible agreement on a simultaneous troop withdrawal be guaranteed by the United Nations.

The first three of the cited theses might or might not be to our liking, but they are Cuba's internal affair. And the fourth one raises more questions than it answers. What will Havana do if its demands are not fulfilled: Prevent the Soviet troops from leaving? Drop the Guantanamo base into the sea? The former is technically impossible. The latter is suicidal. However, some steps in this regard are evidently envisaged. It is only a pity that GRANMA has said nothing of them.

Joint Soviet-U.S. Withdrawal From Cuba Urged

PM1309134791 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 12 Sep 91 p 3

[Report by TASS correspondent S. Sereda written especially for KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA: "Our Men Are Leaving Cuba. This Is What We Say"]

[Excerpts] Havana—To say that Russian President Boris Yeltsin's recent statement on the imminent withdrawal of Soviet troops from Cuba caused a huge stir in Havana would be a great exaggeration.

It has to be admitted that the "Soviet military presence" in Cuba was never particularly apparent, unless, of course, you count the Caribbean crisis. But that was in the past, and much of Cuba's present population was born after those dramatic events.

Havana has grown used to the sight of our soldiers and officers, so to speak. They dress in Cuban uniform, although, in my view, this merely emphasizes their light hair—not typical of the local servicemen—and their distinctly un-Caribbean facial features. As for the Cuban interior, often nobody has set eyes on them there. Everyone in Cuba, whatever their age, knows of the existence of the U.S. naval base in Guantanamo, but this is by no means true of the Soviet military presence. [passage omitted]

The U.S. persistence with regard to the Soviet troops in Cuba might be enviable if it were accompanied by consistency. In my opinion, it is illogical and even improper to spend so many years "hammering the same point," ignoring one's own military presence on Cuban territory.

And you know, it would be good to pool our efforts once again. Surely things turned out splendidly when Moscow and Washington opposed the Husayn regime as a united front. So why not make the troop withdrawal a Soviet-American withdrawal? This could be a substantial contribution to the very cause for which our states have

fought so long, are still fighting, and will continue to fight for a long time yet—that of reinforcing peace around the world. The Cuban mass media certainly could not stay quiet over such an event.

Ministry Spokesman on Salvadoran Peace Settlement

LD1409022991 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1541 GMT 13 Sep 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 13 Sep (TASS)—The situation is Central America, above all the question of ending the armed confrontation in El Salvador, continues to engage Soviet diplomacy. A TASS correspondent was told this today by a representative of the USSR Foreign Ministry. Among recent steps to promote the peace process in that country, he mentioned the Soviet Union's active support of the efforts of the UN secretary general, and the continuing work being carried out with both sides to the Salvadoran dispute and other interested states, in particular that accomplished during the recent tour of countries in the region by Yan Burlyay, head of the Latin American directorate of the USSR Foreign Ministry.

The imaginative line taken by the USSR over questions connected with the search for a peace settlement in Central America is encountering a positive reaction in countries of the region and outside it, the USSR Foreign Ministry spokesman says.

The Soviet diplomat believes that the objective of achieving a fresh breakthrough in the negotiating process is served by the UN secretary general's plan to hold consultations in New York in mid-September with President Alfredo Cristiani of El Salvador and the leadership of the insurgents.

The Soviet side believes that, in the current situation, a mutually acceptable agreement can only be reached and a truly just settlement achieved if both the government and the leadership of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front renounce force once and for all; and that they abandon their attempts to uphold at all costs their ideological interests rather than national interests, the Soviet diplomat stressed. Attention must be concentrated, he believes, on working out ways of solving such priorities for the entire people, such as ending the armed confrontation, taking steps in the context of the policy of national reconciliation, and reviving the country's economy which has been ruined by many years of war. In efforts directed toward the achievement of these goals, Salvadorans can, as before, count on the utmost support and assistance from the Soviet Union, the USSR Foreign Ministry spokesman concluded.

Political & Social

State Council Views Food Supply, Economic Union

LD1609214291 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1650 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Report by TASS "special correspondent" at the USSR State Council session in the Kremlin on 16 September]

[Text] Moscow, 16 Sep (TASS)—The State Council met in the Kremlin at exactly 1000 today, under the USSR president's chairmanship. The leaders of Russia, the Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Belorussia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan participated.

The following issues were on the agenda: the food supply situation and its stabilization in 1991-1992; a draft economic union treaty; the state of the country's fundamental research and measures to support it during the transitional period; a draft provision on a legal commission under the country's State Council; a USSR draft law on USSR border troops; organization of an interrepublican education committee; further improving the system of union-level environmental bodies; and material provision for internal affairs personnel.

The food situation this winter will be reliable enough, said I.S. Silayev, chairman of the USSR Committee for the Operational Management of the Economy, commenting for journalists upon a statement by Yu. M. Luzhkov, his deputy, on the first item. He stressed: The main thing upon which the Council agreed today is to create a single document wherein the leaders of the Union and of all the republics will work out specific measures for supplying food to these republics, providing for exchanges between republics and the distribution of aid which should come from abroad. Silayev feels that this will help us survive the winter. He also said that republican representatives no longer can raise unseen issues that might give rise to friction.

The food shortage is distributed unevenly among the different republics as far as its extent and the range of goods affected, Ivan Silayev observed. One shortage common to all is that of grain and sugar. In this regard, one can only welcome the interrepublican agreement on coordinating their purchases of these goods overseas and on the center's priority role in this.

Today, we will agree on the balance of requirements of each republic and will bring this together, which will make it possible to deal with it, as I. Silayev put it, "not in an uncoordinated way and piecemeal" but carefully to plan centralized food purchases overseas.

As for measures to stabilize future food supplies, State Council members will sign, before the end of September, an agreement on long-term economic measures to reform agriculture radically. Ivan Silayev noted with satisfaction that a certain lack of trust in Russia on the part of a number of republics was largely removed during discussion of this question. On the contrary, a growing desire on their part to cooperate actively with Russia in exchanging food was demonstrated.

G.A. Yavlinskiy, deputy chairman of the USSR Committee for the Operational Management of the Economy, delivered the "On the Draft Treaty on an Economic Union" report. He said that the document's starting point is recognition of the independence of all the members of this union and realization of the extremely grave economic state. The basic points of this concept are enterpreneurship and private ownership and the free movement of goods and services throughout the territory of the proposed economic union. As for monetary policy and the banking system, it is proposed to preserve the common currency, while introducing national currencies. A coordinated budget policy and a settlement to all questions of the republics' domestic and foreign debts is also required. Today, an increase in the domestic debt of each of the republics is an increase in the overall debt of the whole union, Yavlinskiy considers.

One other vital condition of the functioning of a unified economic union is the speediest possible movement toward free price fixing. A pooling of efforts in working out a unified mechanism for ensuring social guarantees is also seen to be inevitable. Here, Grigoriy Yavlinskiy believes, one needs to begin with the question of pensions because, he stressed, "in our country, this is one economic field which requires more attention than others."

In contrast to the food situation issue, which was discussed in an atmosphere of trust and agreement, discussion on the draft economic union treaty clearly did not go smoothly. Here are some views expressed to TASS correspondents by the leaders of a number of republics "immediately afterward."

Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev is convinced that an economic agreement is the most important step toward a future Union treaty. He noted with satisfaction the fact that the State Council members do not differ on this issue and that there are definite opportunities for this matter to be settled at the present sitting using a model similar to the EEC structure. The bilateral and multilateral treaties of sovereign republics could form some kind of basis for a future document. However, the Kyrgyz president noted that the alternative economic agreement proposed by G. Yavlinskiy is "unacceptable owing to its complexity." Moreover, he spoke highly of the alternative draft agreement put forward by Stanislav Shatalin. "Written lucidly and clearly, his draft suits the present-day situation ideally and ultimately could serve as the core of an economic treaty of sovereign republics," A. Akayev stated.

I believe that it is too early to sign an economic agreement, Turkmen President Saparmurad Niyazov said. He believes that a further two to three months of dogged work will be required to eliminate all the uncertainties that have arisen in economic relations between the

republics. "Over that period, the sovereign republics, along with the Russian leadership, could clarify their attitudes and work out an acceptable version of an agreement," the president said. He stressed that we will all be faced in the future with trading at world prices and that this will mean inevitable losses, but we are not losing our confidence of the efficiency of the levers of solidarity. For example, if our Caucasian partners are unable to pay for Turkmen gas supplies immediately, we agree to a mutually advantageous agreement envisaging an equivalent exchange. A common interrepublic insurance fund, which should be set up on a voluntary basis, could help during a difficult period.

Despite the clear need for the country's common economic area to be supported and preserved, I am alarmed by the weakening of economic ties between republics, Azeri President Ayaz Mutalibov said. In their present state, the republics will not individually be able to ensure social programs and, thus, gain the support of their peoples. The Azeri leader believes that the process of demarcating republics increased after the August events and that the mistrust that has arisen should be eliminated, first and foremost by strengthening economic ties. Otherwise, A. Mutalibov said, the economic slump will continue, and this could also result in the loss of the democratic gains of recent years.

The rapporteurs commented on the results of the sitting on the two basic items of the agenda in a conversation with TASS correspondent Boris Grishchenko.

Yuriy Luzhkov, deputy chairman of the USSR Committee for the Operational Management of the Economy:

—Before the end of September, work will be completed on the republican draft agreement on measures to stabilize the country's food situation for the current and future years, which is accepted as a basis, considering the remarks of State Council members. This opens the path to all our collective efforts toward supplies between the republics, considering their requirements and degree of economic interest. Incentives for increasing food supplies to the state fund have been defined. At the same time, we will operate as a unified system and a unified state in our mutual relations with foreign partners who have expressed their desire to cooperate in exporting food to our country.

—Consequently, can one forget the word "famine," which you have been using a number of time at sittings of the committee?

—Everything depends on the results of our work in the near future. The danger is a very great one, and there are no grounds for discounting it. I will fly to a number of European countries tomorrow, where the first serious talks on agreeing protocols for food supplies will take place. Among other things, we will be tackling questions of supplying the country with potatoes and vegetables from Poland, Hungary, and Germany.

Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, head of the draft economic union treaty:

—The draft was adopted as a basis. The republics will form authorized delegations to seek jointly grounds for the agreements constituting the treaty. A big and very complex task lies ahead.

Unfortunately, we know from experience that it is also possible that this work may be drawn out in time and that principles may be substituted and a kind of "salad" may be created of various programs. However, one thing is of main importance today: Work is beginning, in principle. Judging by the debate, which is coming to an end, it will progress with great difficulty.

For instance, Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev proposed a treaty in a more general form, proceeding as it were from international principles. However, it was decided to adopt the most concrete forms of the document, forms brought closer to our conditions. I consider that it will prove possible to put the finishing touches to the document in an extremely short period of time. We are at a critical point. The State Council session has just been discussing how to share the existing food around the country. If we do not find new approaches to the problem, we will again be engaging in partition. Work on the main part of the treaty must be finished within one month.

A number of topical questions not originally on the agenda were also discussed.

Mutalibov Notes Weak Union Links

LD1609155191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1005 GMT 16 Sep 91

[By TASS Correspondent Vitaliy Dzhibuti]

[Text] Moscow, 16 Sep (TASS)—"Despite the manifest need for maintaining and preserving the country's single economic space, I am concerned about the weakening of the economic links that has taken shape among the republics," said Azerbaijani President Ayaz Mutalibov, who arrived in Moscow for the State Council session, to a TASS correspondent.

The president considers that the seven decades during which the republics found themselves under conditions of extremely strict economic integration have left a noticeable mark on the present day. In the state in which republics have found themselves, they will not be able to guarantee the social good or gain a vote of confidence from their peoples. Therefore, the recognition of the importance of introducing economic order and the strengthening of horizontal links are most important today. The absence of these will inflict damage on the sovereignty of the republics, since the processes of forming a center will begin again. This will be dictated by vital necessity.

In Ayaz Mutalibov's opinion, the process of demarcation between the republics has intensified since the August

events. He noted in particular that the approach toward these days needs to be strictly analytical and without the emotions that are prevailing.

Everyone now needs to recognize the situation in which we find ourselves and to take emergency measures to strengthen economic links, the president of Azerbaijan says. He is convinced that if the fall in production continues, the democratic achievements of recent years could be lost as well.

Silayev Foresees Normal Winter Food Supply

LD1609181591 Moscow TASS in English 1723 GMT 16 Sep 91

[By TASS Correspondent Boris Grishchenko]

[Text] Moscow September 16 TASS—The country will live through the forthcoming winter normally, Russian Prime Minister Ivan Silayev said today.

During an interval in a meeting of the Soviet State Council, Silayev commented on food provision, which is undoubtedly among the main problems facing the country.

Outlining the contents of the report by his deputy Yuriy Luzhkov, Silayev noted that food shortages are uneven in various republics in their scope and nomenclature. He said all republics feel shortages of grain and sugar.

Silayev praised an agreement between republics on coordinating purchases of foodstuffs from abroad. He said the centre's role in this sphere in great.

"Today we will agree on balancing each republic's demands and count them. This will allow us to plan centralised food purchases from abroad, rather than deal with them out of concord," Silayev said.

As for measures to stabilise food provision for the future, State Council members are expected to sign an agreement on economic measures for radical reforms in agriculture before the end of September, Silayev said.

Silayev noted with satisfaction that debates on the issue helped remove some distrust with respect to Russia on the part of some republics. On the contrary, the growing desire for active interaction with Russia in food exchanges could be seen, he said.

Council of Foreign Ministers Set Up

LD1609123591 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1200 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] A Soviet Council of Foreign Ministers will be set up to act as the country's supreme diplomatic body. The decision was made at a meeting between the Soviet foreign minister and foreign ministers of 11 republics.

The council will determine Soviet foreign policy and appoint ambassadors—henceforth representatives of all republics—and other important officials. The ministers agreed to jointly seek membership in the United Nations for each republic, along with preserving the Security Council's permanent membership status for the whole Union.

The Soviet Council of Foreign Ministers is expected to perform coordinating and consultative functions and decide on global issues such as disarmament for instance. Questions concerning bilateral relations will be within the competence of the republics.

Veterans Group To Focus on Protecting Pensioners

PM1609133391 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 14 Sep 91 First Edition p 1

[Unidentified TASS correspondent report: "Plenum Held"]

[Text] Moscow—The All-Union Council of War, Labor, and Armed Forces Veterans held an extraordinary plenum 12 September. In their statement the plenum participants welcomed the victory of the democratic forces and condemned the all-Union council's adoption 19 August of an appeal calling on the country's veterans to support the State Committee for the State of Emergency as mistaken, invalid, and not reflecting the opinions of republic veteran organizations or the majority of veterans.

A new all-Union council leadership was elected. The decision was taken to transform the veterans' movement's organizational structures in line with the new circumstances. The movement is now to concentrate its principal efforts on the social protection of pensioners, and not on political problems.

Media & Journalism

New TASS Chief Promises 'Genuine Journalism'

PM1609130791 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 14 Sep 91 Single Edition p 4

[Interview with TASS chief Vitaliy Ignatenko by Viktor Kozhemyako: "What Will TASS Tell Us? Three Questions for Vitaliy Ignatenko"; date and place not given]

[Text] We have recently known Vitaliy Ignatenko as head of the USSR president's press service. A few days ago he was made head of TASS—the country's biggest and best-known news agency. He has been a journalist since 1962, since graduating from Moscow State University. He worked for many years on KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, where his career progressed from student trainee to first deputy chief editor. Then came TASS and the NOVOYE VREMYA magazine, which under his leadership turned from a dreary trade union weekly into a popular and prestigious, democratically oriented publication. The questions I put to Vitaliy Nikitich were suggested by journalist colleagues and our readers.

[Kozhemyako] Why did you move to TASS from the prestigious job you had with the president?

[Ignatenko] During the putsch the TASS leadership proved to be lacking, to put it mildly. And in general in recent years TASS has failed to carry out the progressive, democratic role which our public—in the tumult of perestroyka processes—expected from it. As a professional, I agreed with many of my colleagues on other publications that, under a banner of objectivity—which is the prime and main demand of any news agency—TASS often pushed a certain kind of prejudice. And the many years of "work" done here allowed public opinion to be manipulated. What is particularly dangerous is that this also applied to the country's leaders, who were fed TASS information.

All this ran counter to the spirit of the times. And somebody had to start making radical changes in this large collective. Presidents Gorbachev and Yeltsin have entrusted this difficult job to me, in the hope that I will succeed in the work. Could I have refused? I stand by Aleksandr Nikolayevich Yakovlev's statement introducing me to the TASS personnel: There are times in a man's life when he has to make crucial decisions and listen only to his conscience.

[Kozhemyako] What do you find most dissatisfactory about the work of the organization which you head, and what do you plan to change above all?

[Ignatenko] I've partly answered that already. I would like to add that for many years TASS was shaped as a huge institution, like an official department. It is very important, in my opinion, to inspire a spirit of genuine journalism here. This is probably the main thing. We must liberate these people from their usual conventionalism and from working primarily "by invitation," on the basis of indications from their bosses. We must allow young and old alike to feel free from political games and ambitions, making one thing only—the law—the cornerstone of our management of the flow of news. The rest, I think, will come: professional efficiency, cogency, and interest.

Of course, considerable structural changes—which we are currently considering—will also be needed. Several special creative groups have been set up for this purpose. It will probably be hard to shake up this inflexible and thoroughly stagnant juggernaut, but we must do it.

From the very start of my duties we stopped all special bulletins—we don't publish anything secret now. The broadest spectrum of information will be available to editorial offices, journalists, and readers. We will not publish two services—one for abroad, the other for "domestic consumption." The service should be unified. We will thus put a stop to our journalistic split personality. We will have to cut some inefficient correspondent centers abroad.

We will have to do a lot else besides. I think that the restructuring will least affect our technological services, which operate quite efficiently. I was able to see that for myself before, when I was deputy general director of TASS.

[Kozhemyako] How do you envision TASS' relationship with our different new news agencies—POSTFAKTUM, INTERFAX, and others—as well as with foreign agencies?

[Ignatenko] Our contacts with foreign agencies are quite well organized. We have constant contacts and contracts with almost 50 world agencies—we need only to develop and improve all of these. We will have to organize contacts with our new news agencies—I would particularly spotlight RIA. I find the work of these agencies very interesting. And there should be more of them—genuinely independent and with their own characters. This will do nothing but credit to our country. We will build our relationship with all of them, as well as with agencies in Union republics which have become sovereign states, on the basis of mutual understanding, mutual support, and—naturally—competition.

As I see it, TASS should not put itself above other agencies as their "elder brother." We will work alongside each other. And it will be for the editorial offices and readers who use our product to decide which of us is in the vanguard and which is lagging behind.

Reader Urges PRAVDA To 'Rally' Communists

PM1609153791 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 Sep 91 Single Edition p 1

[Letter from S. Konyayeva: "PRAVDA, Help People To Find One Another"]

[Text] Dear Comrades in PRAVDA!

Even at this distressing time we have managed to experience true joy at the possibility of contact with PRAVDA after a forced interruption. I do not hide the fact that opening the first issue after the stoppage, I felt alarmed: Would I recognize my newspaper, would all the things that attracted me for many years—restraint, reliability, a broad range of subjects, professionalism, and political orientation—still be in it? And as I read issue after issue, I become firmly convinced that this is my newspaper!

But despair and pain for the party forces me to turn to you. Yes, I am from a family of communists, the daughter of party veterans who did not live to see the victory of democracy. In their memory and in the memory of millions of wonderful and honest communists, who served their motherland and their people with faith and truth, I cannot, do not want to, and will not part with my party membership card.

I do not think that I am alone in my stance. I believe that in line with its historic purpose, PRAVDA could and should help these people to find one another, rally them,

and prevent them from being brought to their knees, because some people will not be able to endure that.

Today we find it difficult without leaders, but they will definitely be found. And PRAVDA's assistance is needed here. That is why I am taking the decision to continue with my party membership until new organizational structures are created, and to transfer my party fees into the PRAVDA fund. I appeal to all remaining communists who are devoted to the party to support me.

[Signed] S. Konyayeva, Moscow.

PRAVDA Seen as 'Fulcrum' for Party Revival

PM1309141591 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 12 Sep 91 Single Edition p 1

[Dr. of Historical Sciences Vladlen Loginov "Political Expert's Column": "Party of Truth"]

[Text] There was an anecdote back in the 1960s: Vladimir Ilich wakes up, leaves the mausoleum, goes for a walk, looks around to see who is ruling the country and how the people are living, and says: "Well, Nadyusha [his wife], we'd better go back to Switzerland and start all over again."

It seems today that many Communists will have to start a great deal all over again. Why "many," and not all? Because what people were saying all these years—that several semifinished parties have already virtually taken shape within the CPSU—has become a fact.

To make a crude division, in two, one lot is those who suffer from manifest nostalgia for the past—for the monopoly on power, above all—and who regard the people merely as an object to be manipulated politically and "made happy" from above. The other lot is those who, leading the same life as the people and sharing their misfortunes and hopes, are ready to travel with them.

It is this "other lot"—and it is undoubtedly in the majority in the party—that I am talking of.

Two options are possible for the revival of the party's political activeness. One is the "apparatus" option: to reinstate all the party-bureaucratic structures after the lifting of the illegal ban, and all who have not surrendered their party cards will again become punctilious taxpayers.

The second option is organization and self-organization from below—where there is living work and where people's destinies are decided—and the creation of party groups on territorial, professional, and other principles, in accordance with long-term and short-term interests. And a minimal apparatus coordinating the activities of Communists, not imposing its will on them.

Rather frail? Yes, probably. But it is necessary to begin with this.

One of the priority tasks is to complete work on the Program. The main idea in the published draft is that it must be a party championing the priority of the person and expressing the interests of working people, a party of radical political and economic reforms—this idea is correct. It is necessary to finish work on the draft and begin an open debate. Only not among the party chiefs, but among ordinary Communists. Both the desired cohesion and the inevitable demarcation will take place in the course of this debate.

But all this will take at least some time. And for now...

What is needed is a central point for the practical exertion of effort and for cohesion, general and specific work. I believe that under certain conditions—dealt with below—the newspaper PRAVDA could play this role.

There have been many complaints against it over the past years. And deserved complaints. In the epoch of acute political battles the burden of being the former "flagship of the Soviet press" dragged it to the bottom. However, there was other criticism too. It was heard at party plenums. There PRAVDA, as a supposedly "Gorbachevian" newspaper, was drubbed for failing to participate in the noisy confrontational campaign which certain other party organs had mounted. But it is silly and pointless to recall all this today. The newspaper is here, it exists, and it can become a fulcrum for the party's revival and, essentially, for the creation of a new party.

It is necessary right now (yesterday would have been better) to set up everywhere groups and clubs of PRAVDA supporters and groups of its readers and subscribers, correspondents and distributors. Today, while the CPSU's fate has not been decided juridically, money collections for PRAVDA and subscriptions to it could be a form of membership dues.

One small thing is lacking... Will PRAVDA itself, with its strong traditions as a formal, semiofficial organ, be able to become essentially a people's newspaper? But if we ourselves become its correspondents, distributors, and, so to speak, its "shareholders," we will be able to make the newspaper precisely this. Ours.

The entire press is full now of political lampoons, reviews, reports of replacements of chiefs, interviews with prominent public figures... But what about people down below? What are the thoughts on the present situation of motor vehicle plant workers in Naberezhnyye Chelny, or workers at the ancient glass plant in Krivandino...? What are the thoughts of senior and junior scientific associates in the USSR Academy of Sciences Institutes of History or Philosophy, which used to be funded from the Union budget and have now ended up in dire straits? Will PRAVDA be able to become a center of attraction for all honest working people?

We must start anew gathering forces. All those who want and are able to struggle for democratic reforms and for our homeland's social progress.

TASS Reviews 17 Sep Central Press

LD1709081191 Moscow TASS in English 0648 GMT 17 Sep 91

["Soviet Press Review"—TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow September 17 TASS—Today newspapers carry reports about a Soviet State Council meeting on Monday. The meeting chaired by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev discussed food supplies and ways to stabilise them in 1991-1992, a draft economic agreement, the state of fundamental research projects in the country and measures to promote them during a transitional period, as well as a draft statute on a legal commission under the Soviet State Council and other issues.

The meeting was attended by leaders of Russia, the Ukraine, Belorussia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Kirghizia, Tajikistan, Turkmenia and Uzbekistan.

According to the NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA daily, the State Council approved Grigoriy Yavlinskiy's report on a draft economic agreement on the whole.

PRAVDA observer V. Parfyonov writes about a looming energy crisis in the country. "Our state plagued with political rhetorics about sovereignties and independence should realise that cutting power lines into parts is akin to cutting nerves of a living organism. Should this happen, we will have neither heating nor electricity," Parfyonov says.

The Soviet youth daily KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA offers an interview with Soviet interim government head and Russian Prime Minister Ivan Silayev. Silayev stressed "there are no reasons for panicking that we will freeze and die whatsoever".

PRAVDA publishes the article "Does the Storm of the Winter Palace Continue?" in which publicist Viktor Kozhemyako comments on some recent events in the country.

"We know that history can sometimes repeat itself. Will it occur again? Signs of dictatorship have already become evident in some newly-independent republics. In others, agitated elements overthrow the legitimately elected supreme soviet, block railway roads and continue bloodshed in inter-ethnic conflicts. All this is very alarming," Kozhemyakov says.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA publishes comments by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev on the results of a series of consultations at the Russian White House with British Prime Minister John Major, French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, French Minister for the Economy and Finance Pierre Beregovoy, German Foreign Minister Hans- Dietrich Genscher and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

Kozyrev says "we can see a desire to develop a dialogue with republics, certainly without detriment to the traditional ties with the Union centre".

PRAVDA correspondent in London A. Lyuty tells about hereditary [words indistinct] vision of the events in the Soviet Union.

The failure of the last month's putsch and events it triggered became a source of joy and enthusiasm for millions of people in the Soviet Union and their compatriots in other countries. He says the events were especially heartily welcomed by emigrants who fled the Soviet Union in the first emigration wave in 1917.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA devotes a whole page to the Moscow patriarchy's activities during the attempted coup in August.

The SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA newspaper publishes an interview with Russian General Prosecutor Valentin Stepankov. Stepankov tells about the investigation of the coup leaders' activities.

Stepankov told TASS "there is not any pressure" on him.

In the rubric "Echo of August 19", KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA says that not only the coup leaders but also their lawyers will have to prove their loyalty. It also devotes some materials to Lithuania's long- sought independence, which it gained just in a fortnight after last moth's failed coup, as well as to disputes about KGB archives.

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA publishes its correspondent G. Orekhanov's article "Unite in the Name of Good", in which he comments on the latest Congress of Soviet Writers. The newspaper also offers Soviet writer Valentin Rasputin speech's at the congress "Russia - Our Concern and Faith".

The SELSKAYA ZHIZN daily carries an article by M. Abramik, director-general of the scientific and production association Elita in the Karpatiy region. Abramik writes about various hurdles selectioners have to remove to get their developments introduced.

The RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA newspaper offers an interview with David Taylor, a leader of the International Labour Organisation, and Anatoliy Chernyshov, deputy Soviet minister for labour and social issues.

The interview is titled "Poverty Forces People to Go on Strike".

The newspaper continues publishing excerpts from Raisa Gorbachev's book "I hope...".

The Soviet military daily KRASNAYA ZVEZDA carries reports about a squadron of Su-27 fighter-interceptors visit to Great Britain.

Head of the delegation General N. Antoshkin says the friendly visit is not only a good sign of the times but also

a revival of forgotten traditions and combat glory sealed with blood during the Second World War.

The visit is timed to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Britain.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA publishes an interview with Viktor Prudnikov, deputy Soviet defence minister and Soviet anti-aircraft troops and commander.

"The economic chaos in the country affects arms and hardware supplies, including their quantity and quality," Prudnikov said.

The Soviet trade unions daily TRUD offers an interview with former Chernobyl nuclear plant director Viktor Bryukhanov. In his first interview since his release, Bryukhanov says the plant should be shut down.

The newspaper also carries an interview with Viktor Barannikov, Soviet interior minister. The article is titled "Good Should Have Fists".

Economic

Yavlinskiy on Tasks Set by Economic Agreement

OW1609200091 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1845 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The USSR State Council passed a blueprint of the agreement on the economic union, said the agreement architect Grigoriy Yavlinskiy to the press. According to him, a delegation of the republics will work for two weeks to draw up the final text of the agreement. A number of major amendments will be on the agenda, but the main thing is that "concrete work is beginning that promises to be quite difficult, judging by today's discussion," said Yavlinskiy.

According to him, one of the harshest critics of the agreement is the Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev. Specifically, he suggested setting up an economic union of European and Asian states and only following that, to revise the treaty blueprint. This proposal was thrown out by the State Council members.

Yavlinskiy said that work is scheduled to take 3 to 4 months.

He also said that a meeting of the State Council had discussed the candidacy of the chairman of the Committee for the Operational Management of National Economy, but the question remains open. According to Yavlinskiy, the Committee should not change its composition until the passage of the agreement.

IF [INTERFAX] reports that last week the committee head Ivan Silayev said he intended to resigned on Monday.

Cited on Aspects of Treaty

LD1609153791 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1422 GMT 16 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Boris Grishchenko]

[Text] Moscow, 16 Sep (TASS)—The USSR State Council meeting is continuing its discussion of the second issue "about a draft treaty on an economic union." A report on the subject is being presented by Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, deputy chairman of the committee for operational management of the country's national economy.

Yavlinskiy said that the document's point of departure is recognition of the independence of all members of the union, as well as the most difficult state of their economy. The basic conceptual provisions are enterprise and private property, and free movement of goods and services on the entire territory of the proposed union. In the field of monetary policy and the banking system, it is proposed to preserve a common currency; but that is not the only currency, as the introduction of national currencies is also permitted. Another aspect is finance and taxation. This requires a coordinated budget policy and settlement of all questions of republic internal and external debts. Today an increase in the internal debt of every republic means an increase in the entire debt of the whole union, thinks Yavlinskiy.

Speaking about prices, he pointed out the need to coordinate the speediest possible movement toward free setting of prices, emphasizing that this should be coordinated by the republics. Reviewing the questions of the labor market and social guarantees, he said that the republics and states making up the single economic union should take upon themselves the recognition of all certificates of education obtained in each of the republics. In this way a single labor market will be created, as well as a field for the migration of a large mass of people throughout that market. Social guarantees, Yavlinskiy thinks, must begin above all with pensions, because in our country this is a particular economic field that demands a higher level of attention.

He went on to dwell on problems connected with the regulation of customs rules and tariffs. The customs and tariffs system, he thinks, is in itself capable of leading to the abolition of all kinds of quotas and licenses. The only mechanism that should operate is that of export and import taxes.

On Stabilization Measures for Economy

LD1709001791 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1910 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] We've often used the term transitional period in reference to the current economic situation in the Soviet Union. Meanwhile, we all need stability. The people are closely watching the work of the committee for day-to-day economic management and other newly founded

all-Union bodies expected to end the crisis. This is how the leading Soviet economist Grigoriy Yavlinskiy sees the situation.

[Yavlinskiy, in Russian fading into English translation] I am busy with three basic problems—making a new economic treaty ready for signature is one. The treaty must be democratic and effective enough so that all the 15 republics should be able to join it. Proposals for the structures of interrepublican bodies of economic management, which would become necessary if the economic treaty is signed, are one more group of questions. And the third problem—negotiations with international financial organizations and representatives of Western business circles and industrialized eastern countries on likely cooperation in ending the crisis in the Soviet economy.

They are interested in getting profit and we want a stable situation in the country. Once there is interest, we will start doing business soon. We have to make up our mind who is going to take part in creating one economic space and on what terms. This question is the most important one. It is also very complicated and requires a competent inquiry. The reform fund under Stanislav Shatalin, a member of the Academy of Sciences, the Economic Forecasting Institute, the Center of Economic and Political Studies, and the apparatuses of republican governments are already working on the project.

Yavlinskiy, Silayev on Economic Reform

LD1609231291 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 16 Sep 91

[From the "TV Inform" newscast]

[Text] President Gorbachev chaired a routine session of the State Council in the Kremlin today. The country's president and the leaders of ten sovereign republics agreed on the basic clauses of the draft economic Union treaty. Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, the author of the draft treaty, says the discussion was a long and difficult one, but some progress has been made in the matter:

[Begin recording] [Yavlinskiy] I simply think on a different plane. I think that there are economic problems, our problems, the problem of decline, the problem of inflation, the problem of unemployment, those problems with which we are faced. Just as before, discussion is under way, depending on the depth of understanding of this situation and depending on the level of professionalism in tackling these problems. This does not mean confrontation between the center and the republics; this is confrontation between the current policy, I would say, and the economic strategy. I think that the main treaty—that is, the principles upon which all the rest of the agreements will be worked out—this part of the work should be completed within no more than three to four weeks. As far as special agreements are concerned, let's say on foreign currency or on banks or on money circulation, on the policy in the price sphere, that is a more lengthy process. They require work in greater detail. [Correspondent V. Stepanyuk] Yavlinskiy believes the draft mainly aims to form a common market and to conduct an agreed economic policy. Future economic union members should create the most favorable and equal conditions for entrepreneurship, trade, and freedom of movement for goods and services. It is expedient to retain the ruble as a common currency and a single monetary system. A common market of manpower resources is also planned, as well as unified social guarantees, a unified tax system, an agreed transition to free prices and to the internal convertibility of the ruble, and unified customs regulations and tariffs. The State Council also examined one of the most urgent problems worrying the republics: foods. A food supply program for the population this year and next, coordinated with the republics, was approved. [Russian Prime Minister I.S. Silayev] We agreed that a joint policy statement by all State Council members will be issued in two or three days. This is for our citizens and for our Western partners, and we have agreed to sign an agreement before the end of September which will reflect both the operational activity regarding food and the economic measures with a view to radical economic and agricultural reform. We have two weeks for that, and at the end of September this separate economic agreement on agriculture will be adopted. [end recording]

Agricultural

State Council Statement on Food Supplies

LD1609194191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1845 GMT 16 Sep 91

["State Council Statement on Normalizing Food Supplies and on Agrarian Policy in 1991-1992"—TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, 16 Sep (TASS)—Having discussed the consumer market state of affairs in the sovereign states and the progress of restructuring agrarian relations in the countryside, the USSR State Council expressed the common view that the state organs of power and government of the republics must do everything to ensure that the peasant does indeed become the master of the land, of the means of production, and of the output that he produces. The necessary economic and legal prerequisites are now being created to bring in market mechanisms which stimulate production and ensure equal exchange between agriculture and industry. Union and republican organs have been instructed to implement specific action in this area.

At the same time, coordinated measures to produce food resources and to implement a pricing policy for food, agricultural raw materials, and the basic means of production that benefit everyone are necessary in the present situation as never before. It is envisaged that the appropriate interrepublican agreement will be concluded in September.

It was deemed necessary to retain existing interrepublican economic links for the immediate future.

Agreement was reached on the need to coordinate the basic principles of distributing the total quantity of food credits between the republics, in accordance with their specific need.

The sovereign republics will resolve jointly all problems linked with the conclusion of treaties and agreements for supplying food and consumer goods to the country from abroad and invest the USSR Committee for the Operational Management of the Economy with the authorities to act on their behalf.

State Council members expressed their unanimous desire not to permit the food crisis to become deeper and to normalize the consumer market through their combined efforts.

Grain Harvest, Procurement Figures Assessed

PM1309111891 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 13 Sep 91 p 1

[USSR Ministry of Agriculture and Food Press Center report, plus article by Mikhail Silvanovich, under the rubric "Topical Theme": "Our Daily Bread"]

[Text] [USSR Ministry of Agriculture and Food Press Center report] According to USSR State Committee for Statistics figures, by 9 September grain and pulse crops had been cut on an area of 81.9 million hectares, and threshed on 77.8 million hectares. That is 81 and 77 percent of the sown area respectively.

Some 135.8 million tons of grain had been threshed. The average yield was 17.4 quintals per hectare.

Some 30.7 million tonnes of grain have reached the country's grain reception centers—23 percent of what has been threshed. The state order has been 40 percent fulfilled.

The farms of the North Caucasus and southern Ukraine have begun the sunflower harvest.

Sugar beet is being harvested in all the beet growing oblasts, krays, and republics, with the exception of the Altay farms.

Cotton harvesting is under way in Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenia.

Long-stemmed flax has been pulled on an area of 527,000 hectares—83 percent of the sowings. Some 105,000 tonnes of fiber has been purchased—33 percent of the state order.

Potatoes have been dug on 349,000 hectares—one-fifth of the total area. The average crop as of 9 September is 105 quintals per hectare. Some 33 percent of the area planted with vegetables has been harvested.

Sowing of winter grain crops has taken place on 19.2 million hectares (50 percent of the plan), which is 4.8 million hectares more than by the same date last year. Fall plowing has been carried out on an area of 31.5 million hectares, as against 18.6 million last year.

[Silvanovich article] The grain harvest in the country's fields is in progress on the final one-fourth of the sown area. It is already possible to pontificate on the accuracy of our own and foreign predictions about the total yield. We (and others) predicted 190 million tonnes, as is well known. As of 9 September 135.8 million had been threshed. The average yield is gradually "slipping" from the maximum 42 quintals in the Kuban to the minimum 6 quintals in drought-stricken Kazakhstan, and the countrywide average is already down to only 17.4 quintals per hectare.

But another question arises. Unfortunately, however clear the picture of the threshings may be, it remains difficult to compile any kind of accurate social prediction for the near future to answer the question: Will we be able to feed ourselves?

This question is probably more acute this year than at any time since the postwar devastation. And here is why, in our view. For better or for worse—that is a separate topic—in our former state the grain balance was always rather like a revolver under the pillow of a potentate who slumbered despite his grave sins. Remember, for instance, 10 years ago. The sowings were under Moscow's ever-vigilant supervision. The harvest was established even before the sowing and adjusted (God forbid a downward adjustment) to the accompaniment of quaking in Staraya Square [CPSU Central Committee headquarters] and the Kremlin. Kolkhoz and sovkhoz threshing floors came under searchlights from there. All this, including the well-worn trail across the ocean (for wheat—as a result of which people in America grew accustomed to making their own advance predictions about our harvests), was sanctified by the policy of social protection of the people. Yes, it was sacred. We lived as best we could, wore heaven knows what, and sped toward today's cataclysms. But the one thing no ordinary mortal worried his head about was bread. And the prices were... No, that too is a subject for another day.

We used to receive our loaf of bread from the hand of the state. In abundance, and "on the cheap." A mighty bread-producing system was created in the country. There were reliable storehouses, equipment, flour mills, hulling mills. But now—and here I am approaching the sensitive area of this year's harvest—the storehouses are empty or nearly empty, the kolkhozes and sovkhozes have delivered only 23 percent of the threshed grain to state storehouses. The state order, which this year covers only the minimum actual requirement for grain and mixed feed, is only 40 percent fulfilled. The yield in the various republics, krays, and oblasts is varied, and, objectively speaking, the only way we can judge how far they are observing their mutual responsibilities to each other and to the state is from the proportion of threshed

grain that has been delivered to the elevators. Thus Russia's contribution is 22 percent, the Ukraine's is 29 percent, Belorussia's—14 percent, and Kazakhstan's—16 percent.

The Stavropol grain growers have fulfilled the state order and the food tax with the largest volume of purchases; they have sold the state 1.8 million tonnes of grain, and intend to bring sales up to 2 million. Also in Russia, the state order has been fulfilled by Lipetsk, Orel, Tula, Bryansk, and Ivanovo Oblasts.

But here are some different indicators... Sales of grain to the state in Novgorod and Tver Oblasts are at the level of 1 or 2 percent of the threshings. In Pskov and Yaroslavl Oblasts the figures is 5-7 percent... Theirs is not a grain zone, but for that very reason their kolkhoz and sovkhoz barns are less safe than elsewhere. The greatest concern of all must be that the crop that the farms keep "at home" is often exposed to bad weather and theft. And what temptations these golden heaps of grain can generate! It would, after all, be safer for it to be in the state storehouses. The less grain there is, the more precious it is—that is obvious. But on the other hand, bigger piles can leak more. In this sense, surely the stockpiling syndrome that we see in leaders of grain oblasts like Rostov, Volgograd, Voronezh, Tambov, and Penza, Krasnodar Kray, and many other regions is all too significant?

I have a feeling I am moving into very dangerous ground here: I am telling people what to do, upbraiding them, in a sense holding up as an example the principles of the accursed past. The market is upon us! Everyone is his own boss now.

Experience shows that the most brilliant minds of our present-day community of sovereign states have not yet made up their minds about the market, in particular for grain. This is true even of those who, in other political spheres, are models of democracy and the emancipation of entrepreneurship. Paradoxically, interrepublic and interoblast barriers that did not exist before have now sprung up. Licenses for exporting grain—that is by no means a market instrument, although with the whole tone of my article I welcome this Russian Government measure, because to a considerable extent it stops the chaos in dealing with food. The food tax is also a revolver under the pillow, but people must understand that this is also necessary in the transitional period to the market! The point where I give up, so to speak, is this—I cannot understand: Why is it that people today are not afraid of the "stick," or if it is made in such a way that people will not be afraid of it, what is the point of a stick at all?

And the current "carrots" are also an "unpopular" measure for the market. Why are people not tempted by "carrots," so that they won't deliver the grain, and that's that? This is beginning to become clear. In the old days too they often showed people "carrots," but seldom handed them over. Nothing has really changed. Last year in Russia checks were issued for harvesting and delivering grain, but the goods were not available to redeem them. This year the well-known USSR Cabinet of Ministers resolution promised to issue to peasants and grain procurement workers a month's worth of consumer goods and a lot of equipment and construction materials. Now the chickens have come home to roost: By August there were already a good many people who deserved their reward. And we at the editorial office carried out a check: We contacted several places where state orders had already been fulfilled. Here is what they told our correspondents: The Kalmyk SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] agro-industrial union told A. Bykov: "Last year's checks in exchange for 83,000 tonnes of grain were never redeemed. This year we trusted them again. The result: As yet they have only promised us goods, but without taking account of demand: We will give you what we have. Furthermore the republic Ministry of Grain Products has asked the agroindustrial union for annual quotas of equipment and construction materials: Apparently that is how they want to pay for the grain." Ryazan's "Lipyagovskiy" Sovkhoz told A. Zholobov: "We ordered in exchange for grain two trucks, 15 washing machines, 10 refrigerators, and one Zhiguli car. They have given us nothing so far. We are not sure they are going to."

A very new document from I.S. Silayev's government is certainly a good thing: I mean the resolution on accepting grain from kolkhozes and sovkhozes for storage in exchange for interest payments. It is good because if they take this opportunity the farms will be able to rid themselves of some of the worries mentioned above: The grain will not be stolen or spoiled, and into the bargain it will still be possible to earn from it. And they will give it back when you ask for it.

About time, as they say. Maybe the success of this government action would be guaranteed, if only it were possible to erase from everyone's memory the fact that last year they were also supposed to give back... mixed feed in exchange for grain. But many, many tens of thousands of tonnes were not given back. And no one can be held responsible.

These are the kind of thorns we must hack our way through on the way to the market. The question is: Will we get there? And would it be better for us to remain retrogressive as far as grain is concerned? That is, to find a reasonable combination of freedom and discipline. But surely this direct combination is the very essence of democracy?

Siberian Agro-industrialists Threaten Protest

LD1709082591 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 1300 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Agro-industrialists of the Siberian region have sent their demand, which is also an ultimatum, to the country's President Gorbachev, Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] President Yeltsin and Silayev, chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers. In

their message, they listed fourteen points. Their essence is this: Establishing state subsidies with a view to establishing equivalent prices for industrial and agricultural products, and also the immediate adoption of an antimonopoly law. If these demands are not met, Siberian collective and state farms will cease to use state prices for the agricultural produce supplied to Union and republican stocks and call a collective action in protest.

Military

Shaposhnikov Interview Recounts Coup Attempt

PM1609134491 Paris LE MONDE in French 13 Sep 91 p 8

[Interview with Soviet Defense Minister Nikolay Shaposhnikov by Andrey Karaulov; place and date not given—reprinted from NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 12 Sep; first paragraph is LE MONDE introduction]

[Text] Appointed defense minister of the USSR and air marshal following the Moscow coup, General Nikolay Shaposhnikov, 49, had until then commanded the Soviet Air Force. In an interview granted to Soviet journalist Andrey Karaulov and published by Moscow's NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA on Thursday 12 September, he recounts in detail what the events of August looked like from the Soviet "Pentagon," the Defense Ministry then headed by Marshal Yazov, now under arrest with the other putschists. We publish as an exclusive this interview, distributed in France by the weekly COURRIER INTERNATIONAL.

[Karaulov] Having worked for a long time alongside your predecessor, Marshal Yazov, were you surprised to see him among the members of the State Committee for the State of Emergency?

[Shaposhnikov] Look at his date of birth: 1923. That means that Yazov was educated and grew up under Stalin. Then came perestroyka, democratization, and glasnost. And the further it went, the less he liked it. He was patient for a long time. But the Union was creaking, the Armed Forces were restoring national borders, and the economy was prey to chaos. So Yazov, the marshal, was seized by doubt. I think he was shocked by the confusion. But he did not go all the way; he did not shoot at civilians.

On the morning of 19 August he convened his generals to tell them that a state of emergency had been introduced, that the troops had been put on a state of alert throughout the territory of the Soviet Union, and that units would be sent to certain cities including Moscow. "So," he said, "don't do anything stupid. There will be people in the crowd who will throw themselves in front of the tanks or throw Molotov cocktails. I want no bloodshed or carnage." That is what he said.

Maybe that is why the fatal order was not issued. The troops were simply told to enter the city, to stop at a certain place, and nothing else. I realized on the morning of Monday 19 August that he would not dare, would not issue an irreversible order. In the final analysis, I think that is in his favor.

[Karaulov] Were relations between you not of the best?

[Shaposhnikov] We were not close, personally. Our dealings were purely professional. Yazov always had his own viewpoint on everything; he thought he knew everything better than anyone else. On 19 August, at the meeting of the collegium of generals called by Yazov, we were all in a state of shock, appalled. He did not give us time to reflect, and spoke briefly, for no more than a quarter of an hour. I observed that he was not at all enthusiastic—rather, despondent, somewhat distant, apathetic... He told us right away that Gorbachev was sick, that the signing of the Union treaty was planned for the next day but that there was no question of its being signed in that situation. He said: We will work and remain hopeful. Proceed! He did not allow any questions to be asked, and in any case, to be honest, nobody showed any wish to do so. Carry out the orders, he said.

The atmosphere within the college of generals is far from one of open camaraderie. I can hardly remember an instance of people speaking openly, unburdening themselves. It is not that we mistrust one another; it all comes from Stalinism. So on 19 August it was the same: I went out and climbed the steps with the first deputy commander-in-chief of the Navy (the actual commander-in-chief was on vacation.) I should explain that in our country the Air Force and Navy are considered the most democratic of the Armed Forces. So I said to him: What do you think of this? It doesn't look good to me. It looks like a coup d'etat. Yes, he replied, I agree. They all seem like Gorbachev men, and it is they who are declaring the state of emergency... We got into our cars and each went our own way. That was all—not another word.

Let me tell you a story about Yazov. On 20 August the radio station, the Moscow Echo, announced my arrest. Sobchak (mayor of Leningrad—LE MONDE editor's note) said at a meeting in Leningrad that the whole of the Air Force had sided with Yeltsin. Foreign radio stations reported the same. At that time I was in my office. Suddenly the telephone rang. It was Yazov, summoning me.

"What Do you Think I Should Do"

[Karaulov] You risked never coming back...

[Shaposhnikov] My attitude was this: They did not know exactly which side I was on. I received some phone calls from the KGB: "We have heard reports of insinuations against you. Explain yourself." I played dumb. "I cannot deny something that I have not heard directly," I said. "But according to Sobchak..." "No," I said, "I don't know anything about it. You may as well hang up; there's no point in your persisting." So Yazov could not have known anything about my attitude. Later I went to the Ministry, where I waited in vain for almost an hour.

Then I called him in his car. "I'll be there soon; wait for me!" he replied. So, for the first time in many years, I saw a Yazov with a human face. He came to meet me, apologized for his lateness, and asked me to sit down.

He sat down opposite me. I thought that all this did not bode well, that he was planning to stab me in the back. Be he said to me, raising his eyebrows: "What do you think I should do? Tell me honestly." So I told him honestly. I told him that it was necessary to try to resolve the situation. How? With dignity, of course. "Do you know how?" "Yes, by withdrawing troops from the capital and ordering the end of the state of emergency." "Suppose I do," he said. "What will happen to the Committee?" "It will have to be dissolved and declared illegal; its members will have to be arrested, if necessary; full power must be granted to the Supreme Soviet; and Gorbachev must be brought back to Moscow."

No sooner had I spoken these words than three members of the military collegium entered the office. Yazov changed immediately, his face became entirely different. He asked the three to sit down and said to me: "Do you know why I asked you here?" I felt my blood run cold. It had been a mistake for me to speak to him openly. But he said to me: "There are too many democrats in the Army and Air Force. You can expect anything from them at any time. Are you sure that you control these people?" "Yes, I'm sure." "So take the necessary measures and attend to your business."

Attack on the Kremlin

[Karaulov] How do you explain this strange meeting?

[Shaposhnikov] He had doubts. My impression is that when the three generals entered the office he wanted to defend me from them, to protect me. In fact I had the clear impression that he was looking for a way out.

After the meeting I returned to my office and summoned my senior aides. "Well, then, boys, what do you think of this? Let's forget for the moment that we're all senior officers. In the Air Force we've always been honest with one another. So what's to be done? Tell me." As I expected, the reply was unanimous: This business must be ended. "Very well," I replied, "it's all clear. Come what may, you will obey orders only from me and from nobody else, no matter who." The same instruction was issued to the troops.

As night approached on 20 August I heard that an attack was being planned on the "White House," the Russian parliament building. I called Colonel General Grachev. He told me that he had no intention of carrying out the putschists' orders and wanted to tender his resignation. If it was not accepted he would shoot himself in the head. I told him that that could wait and that it would be better to go to the "White House." I must admit that my wife told me that if I went there I would be dismissed. "Come what may, you will lose your command, but the outcome will be entirely different."

I suggested to Grachev that he besiege the Kremlin with his paratroops and that we arrest the junta ourselves. He was very well acquainted with the Kremlin and its fortifications and expressed doubts about the success of such an enterprise. He advised me, rather, to stay by the telephone to keep control of things and to avert any stupid actions. Sleep on it, he told me.

So I thought, if the order to attack is given I will issue an ultimatum to the putschists: Cancel the order or I will send in the bombers and crush you. We stayed in permanent contact with the "White House." One of my colonels called me from there and I heard through the receiver: "Long live Russia!"

"Old Alcoholics"

On the morning of 21 August I received a call telling me to be at Yazov's office at 0900 hours. He beat around the bush, spoke incoherently, and said negative things about Pavolv and Yanayev. Such as that they were just two old alcoholics that had involved him in the coup against his will, that it was all a shameful business for the Armed Forces...

As head of the collegium, I spoke first, demanding that the order be given for the troops to withdraw from Moscow. I repeated what I said the previous day. Almost all the members of the collegium supported me. Then Yazov told us that he had refused to attend a meeting of the putschists' committee that was under way at that very moment and that he expected, in all probability, to order the troops' withdrawal. He added that he was not leaving the Committee in order to avoid being a traitor twice over: "I will carry my cross all the way."

[Karaulov] So who ended the coup?

[Shaposhnikov] Everyone together, I think. Excuse the cliche, but it was the era that ended the coup.

[Karaulov] Were the generals surprised by your decision to resign from the Communist Party in the midst of the coup?.

[Shaposhnikov] Some, yes, but the majority supported me. I made that decision on 19 or 20 August.

Lermontov Rather Than Lenin

[Karaulov] So the coup changed the Armed Forces.

[Shaposhnikov] I do not want anyone to say ever again that it was a military coup d'etat. The military managed to come out of it honorably, as did the whole of Russia. The Soviet people can be proud of their Armed Forces. The defense minister's prime concern is to form committees of officers. Because of the elimination of party structures within the Armed Forces, we will have to find places for a lot of people. Most of these people have served their homeland as best they could. Now the Armed Forces will gradually become professional. The Defense Ministry itself must be radically reformed, become a civilian body, and be headed by a civilian.

Armed forces based on the territory of a republic must guard its borders and never interfere in its internal affairs or organize maneuvers on its land without the approval of the Supreme Soviet and the president...

But I think that none of the republics, including the Baltic republics, can protect its borders and airspace on its own. If mutual trust reigns, I think every republic will agree to retain a certain contingent of armed forces. Perhaps not as large as at present. For instance, no republic has its own air force. But we will leave at the first request.

[Karaulov] There are portraits of Lenin—mediocre ones, for that matter—on all he generals' offices. Will you be taking them down?

[Shaposhnikov] To be honest, I have never understood Lenin, either as a statesman or as an ordinary man. If I do understand him some day, I will draw the conclusions. Then I will replace his portrait with that of Pushkin. Or Lermontov, who was an officer.

Rodionov Explains Military Personnel Dismissals

LD1609111991 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0958 GMT 16 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Oleg Moskovskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 16 Sep (TASS)—"In the recent past, nine out of 17 members of the USSR Defense Ministry Collegium have left or have been transferred for various reasons. By decree of the USSR President, all these military chiefs have been released from their duties", Lieutenant General Yuriy Rodionov, Chief of the Main Directorate for Personnel of the USSR Armed Forces said.

He gave an interview today to TASS regarding the latest changes in the top leadership of the Defense Ministry—departure from their posts of Army General Konstantin Kochetov, USSR First Deputy Defense Minister, and Army General Viktor Yermakov, Head of the Chief Directorate for Personnel. "Reasons for the dismissal of Dmitriy Yazov, the USSR Defense Minister, and Valentin Varennikov, Commander in Chief of the Ground Forces are well-known. They were active organizers of the coup", the general stressed.

Then Yuriy Rodionov said that Army General Mikhail Moiseyev, the former General Staff Chief, had been released at his own request from his duties and sent for examination by a military screening commission to be discharged into the reserve for health reasons.

The head of the Chief Directorate for Personnel said that Colonel General Nikolay Shlyaga, the USSR First Deputy Defense Minister, had been released from his duties in connection with the abolition of the chief military-political directorate of the USSR Armed Forces. "Now he is being examined in the hospital by the military screening commission to be discharged from the armed forces", Yuriy Rodionov said. He added that Colonel General Vyacheslav Achalov, USSR Deputy Defense Minister, had been released from his duties due to the abolition of his post. He is also in hospital and is undergoing examination by a military screening commission.

"Ivan Tretyak, the former commander in chief of the Air Defence Armed Forces, and Army General Vladimir Govorov, the former chief of the USSR Civil Defense are being dismissed from the armed forces for age reasons," Lieutenant General Yuriy Rodionov said.

In his view, the commission set up under the leadership of Army General Konstantin Kobets to analyze the activities of the leadership of the USSR Armed Forces during the coup "will enable one to be objective and impartial in revealing the true role that each of the military chiefs played during the putsch."

Baltic Affairs

Republic Leaders Depart for UN Meeting

OW1609113091 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1040 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The head of Lithuania's Supreme Council, Vytautas Landsbergis, left by plane for New York on Sunday night to attend the UN General Assembly session opening tomorrow. The session is expected to grant UN membership to Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. The heads of the Estonian and Latvian parliaments, Arnold Ruutel and Anatolijs Gorbunovs, are now in Finland where they are scheduled to meet with President Hauno Koivisto on Monday, and then leave for New York.

Estonia

Supreme Soviet Rules on Talks With USSR

OW1609214591 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1920 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On September 16 the Estonian Supreme Soviet passed a ruling on "The Organization of Talks With the USSR." The ruling says that the republican parliament had taken into consideration the information of the Estonian government on the signed treaties and agreements with the USSR Defense Ministry, the USSR KGB, the USSR Interior Ministry and the Russian Federation government. It also proclaims as null and void the mandate of the Estonian Republic's delegation at the talks with the USSR on the restoration of independence.

The Supreme Soviet instructed the republican government to organize talks with the USSR and its constituent republics to make a maximum use of the possibilities for the strengthening of Estonia's independence in the economy, politics and the social sphere.

The government was also instructed to inform the parliament on the course of the talks and the interim results within 10 days of the conclusion of a treaty or agreement, these documents shall be due for ratification at the Estonian Supreme Soviet.

Ruling Granting Territory to Russia Rescinded

OW1509214691 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2032 GMT 15 Sep 91

[From the "Soviet Business Report"; Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The presidium of the Estonian parliament rescinded its 1945 ruling that gave Russia more than 1000 square km. of Estonia's territory. Observers say that the decision may provide a legal basis for Estonia's laying a claim to part of the Russian territory.

Joint Border Guards Assume Airport, Port Patrol

OW1609175091 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1320 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The joint service of Estonian and Soviet border guards began on Monday at Tallinn's airport and sea port. So far the Estonian border guards are only students, while responsibility for order at the two border posts is shouldered by their Soviet counterparts. Besides, Estonian border guards underwent a ten-day course of theoretical studies conducted by Soviet eperts.

Andrus Oovel who leads Estonia's border protection department has told BF [BALTFAX] that talks are in progress on transferring the task of guarding borders at Tallinn's airport and seaport to the Estonian side. According to him, this might happen by October 1.

A. Oovel also said that Estonia's prime minister Edgar Savisaar intends to go to Narva on Wednesday to hold negotiations with the leaders of St. Petersburg and its region on issues concerning the border between Estonia and Russia. So far it's not clear whether St.Petersburg's Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak will join these negotiations or not.

Ruutel, Gorbunovs Meet Finnish President

LD1609121191 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 0900 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Meeting in Helsinki today were Finnish President Mauno Koivisto, Arnold Ruutel, chairman of the Estonian Supreme Council, and Anatolijs Gorbunovs, chairman of the Latvian Supreme Council. Ruutel and Gorbunovs stopped over in Helsinki on their way to New York. The annual session of the UN General Assembly, where Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania will be admitted as UN members, begins tomorrow in New York. Today's meeting was the first for the chairmen of Latvian and Estonian Supreme Councils with the Finnish president after the Baltic states' independence was restored.

Finnish Firm To Help Build Tallinn Oil Terminal

OW1509220091 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2032 GMT 15 Sep 91

[From the "Soviet Business Report"; Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Neste Oy, a Finnish company, plans to participate in the construction of a $50 million oil terminal in the port of Tallinn, reports the news agency Baltfax.

The 100,000 ton terminal is due to be built by 1994, to be run by the Estonian Transoil, a joint venture [JV] established by an agreement signed in Tallinn last week. Of the

JV's $5 million capital base, 55 percent belongs to Neste Oy and 45 percent, to the association Estontoplivo.

In recent years Neste Oy built two filling stations in Tallinn and it plans to set up several filling stations along the Via Baltica, a route connecting Poland with Finland.

Delegation Leaves for European Council Session

OW1609114491 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1040 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] An Estonian delegation led by Indrek Toome, head of the parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee, left for Strasbourg on Sunday to attend the session of the European Council's parlianentary assembly which is expected on Wednesday or Thursday to discuss the issue of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania's admission to the assembly.

Meri Interviewed on Relations With Czechoslovakia

AU1309143991 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 12 Sep 91 pp 1, 4

[Interview with Estonian Foreign Minister Lennart Meri by Blazej Panik in Moscow on 10 September: "The CSFR's Principled Stance"]

[Text] Moscow—The Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact was finally buried on 10 September after more than 50 years. This was done in a pan-European context—Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia became full-fledged members of the family of European nations. This decision, made by the foreign ministers of the 35 countries involved in the Helsinki process, was—by coincidence—ratified only a couple of hundred meters from the place where, on the eve of World War II, Molotov and Ribbentrop signed the pact that sealed our continent's division.... Immediately after the Baltic states' acceptance into the CSCE process, our correspondent asked Estonian Foreign Minister L. Meri for an interview.

[Panik] Not only last year, but this year too, Europe was rather cautious about the Baltic states' endeavor for independence. What is your opinion of the stance adopted by Czechoslovakia?

[Meri] We will never forget the CSCE states' summit meeting in Paris last year to which the Baltic delegations were not admitted following a Soviet ultimatum. The CSFR delegation made an important political gesture of solidarity with us. Therefore, we very much appreciate the Czechoslovak leadership's principled stance.

[Panik] Cooperation between our countries will now be given an unmistakable new dimension. In your opinion, in which spheres are the best prerequisites for this cooperation?

[Meri] The countries of Central Europe, to which the Baltic states also belong, have a great deal in common. First and foremost, we are united by our experiences of socialist totalitarianism. We must overcome its consequences as quickly as possible and, therefore, we should help each other on the basis of mutual economic cooperation. Specific forms of cooperation will, undoubtedly, crystallize very quickly.

[Panik] When will you visit Czechoslovakia?

[Meri] In 1968 I told my good friend Antonin Liehm that I will not come to Czechoslovakia until the last Soviet tank has left. This time has now come; therefore, I am pleased to accept the invitation to visit your country. We have very friendly relations with the Czechoslovak leadership.

Concern Over Bank Savings, Restrictions Raised

PM1709140591 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Sep 91 Union Edition p 4

[Correspondent L. Levitskiy report citing G. Litvinova, chairman of the Estonian branch of the USSR State Bank; R. Dontsov, chairman of the Estonian branch of the USSR Bank for Labor Savings and Credit to the Population; and R. Otsason, president of the Bank of Estonia, carried under the "Events and Commentary" rubric; date not given: "Will the Savings Bank Book Become a Souvenir?"]

[Text] Tallinn—Estonia is suffering a new shortage: A lack of cash to pay wages, money orders, and savings bank deposits. This has produced restrictions and, as a result, worry. Lines have formed outside savings banks. At post offices people are being issued with no more than 500 rubles, the residue of money orders being returned to the sender. Admittedly, the inhabitants of Estonia can have money orders paid into their savings bank books or personal accounts.

Quite a lot of people have associated the restrictions on paying out deposits with preparation to make a move against deposits altogether. The logic of the argument is simple. The country issuing rubles and its central structures which guarantee the security of savings will be transformed before our eyes. New states geared to their own national currencies are coming into being. And Estonia and its inhabitants have yet again been the first to experience the acuteness of the common problem of money and savings. And the alarm has been sounded.

G. Litvinova, chairman of the republic branch of the USSR State Bank:

[Litvinova] Expenditure is going up too fast: The payment of cash for wages, for the needs of cooperatives and joint-stock companies, and for money orders. A large number of money orders are coming in from the southern republics, which are naturally not provided for in the money issuing plans. The USSR Gosbank provides backup each month in the form of bank notes in line with quotas.

R. Dontsov, chairman of the republic branch of the USSR Bank for Labor Savings and Credit to the Population [Sberbank]:

[Dontsov] I will not venture to assure investors that their savings are so soundly protected by the country's laws and assets. I will operate with the facts. For the time being there remains a single currency—the ruble; a single money issue; and single credit resources, and there also remain guarantees of the security of savings. At any rate, until the end of the year, I think, the Sberbank of Estonia and the country will meet all their commitments. [Dontsov ends]

But inevitably it is entirely likely that Estonia, Lithuania, and Latvia will produce their own national currencies, banking systems, and money issuing procedure. How will credit resources be allocated among the sovereign states? Who will ensure the value of the ruble in a Union of sovereign states? How will exchange against national currencies be carried out?

A rule-of-law society is a society which protects citizens' property, rights, and interests. The USSR Sberbank's monetary resources are the property of many tens of millions of people. We are unable always even to imagine their number. I will cite figures on Estonia. Of its 1.5 million inhabitants more than 1 million are owners of savings books. So the change in the system of savings banks and the shift from one currency to another affects the interests of every adult and almost every child in Estonia.

R. Otsason, president of the Bank of Estonia:

What will happen to the savings of the republic's inhabitants? As yet Estonia bears no responsibility for them at all. And that is, of course, abnormal. The Bank of Estonia has always considered that credit resources and the population's money deposits should belong to the republic itself. And then it would not only have them at its disposal but would guarantee their security and a painless transition to its own currency. The rough procedure governing ruble exchange would be determined by us. [Otsason ends]

But the government has had a different concept, prepared by an economic adviser from Sweden. Under this it is impossible to introduce our own currency for a few years yet—until the stabilization of the ruble in the USSR. The Supreme Soviet has not made up its mind to opt for any concept. And now, after the restoration of Estonian independence, the republic has neither its own savings nor a clear-cut program to reorganize money issue. Mindful of the misgivings felt by inhabitants of Estonia who are depositors in the USSR Gosbank, it is possible to advise them to address parliament directly. Everything now depends on it: The conditions of the general economic agreement with the USSR, the timetable for the transition to the kroon, the procedure for ruble exchange...

A brief postscript: Economics Minister J. Leymann—member of the Committee for the Operational Management of the National Economy—has agreed to allocate additional banknotes to Estonia. So the restrictions on paying out deposits and money orders will be lifted. But misgivings concerning the security of savings persist. Of course, this problem is most acute in Estonia and the other republics which have opted for their own statehood. But it will inevitably go beyond their borders. Clearly the new Union that succeeds the old must promptly confirm its former commitments to all the country's citizens—to assure them that, whatever the cirumstances, savings books will not become mere souvenirs, as happened many years ago with all the population's securities.

Latvia

Diplomatic Relations Established With PRC

LD1509232491 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 0430 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] The Republic of Latvia has established full diplomatic relations with the PRC. After a relatively long coordination of views, the Latvian Foreign Ministry has signed a joint announcement on the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Latvia and the PRC. From this day, both countries will develop friendly relations and cooperation on the basis of mutual consideration of sovereignty and territorial integrity, nonaggression and noninterference in each other's state affairs. By this announcement, the Latvian Government recognizes the PRC Government only legitimate one, and Taiwan as an integral part of China's territory. It has also undertaken not to establish official relations and not to (?initiate) official contacts with Taiwan. Diplomatic relations between the two states are being established at ambassadorial level. The announcement of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Latvia and the PRC was signed by Sandra Kalniete, deputy foreign minister of the Republic of Latvia, and Tian Zengpei, deputy foreign minister of the PRC.

New Faction Forming in Parliament

OW1609182791 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1620 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A new faction is likely to emerge in Latvian parliament that will be called the Movement for National Independence. The movement's board plans to meet on September 21 to discuss this issue, said deputy chairwoman of the movement Birdza Vituola to the newspaper Diena.

As of today, the movement is represented in the parliamentary faction of the Latvian Popular Front. But according to the latest reports from Riga, three of the 18 deputies of the movement announced their plans to leave the Latvian National Front. They are: Eduards Berklavs, Aleksandrs Kirsteins and Einars Cilinkis. The parliamentarians emphasized in an official statement

that they disagreed with the Popular Front which, they claimed, was delaying the "processes of Latvian decolonisation," including the restoration of the rights of the citizens of the Latvian republic, the establishment of an efficient system of state protection, and the reorganization of the state government structures.

The National Independence Movement also announced its disagreement with the plans to authorize the current republican Supreme Soviet to enact a new citizenship law. The movement favours giving the right to grant Latvian citizenship to the new Sejm elected by those who were Latvian citizens before 1940 and their heirs.

Popular Front Discusses Citizenship Issues

OW1609233791 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1920 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Latvian citizenship was on the agenda at the Yurmala seminar of the Latvian Popular Front last Saturday and Sunday. The seminar ciosed with a sitting of the Front's duma. It as said at the sitting that every Soviet citizen must have a right to choose beteen citizenship in the Latvian Republic following the election of the Sejm (parliament), citizenship of a different state, life in Latvia as a stateless person or emigration to another country.

According to the duma members, all population of the Latvian Republic will be able to take part in the first election of the Sejm. Letts living outside the republic may be eligible to vote. The Front's duma suggested requesting an expert opinion of the election bill from the European Council and than putting it before the republican referendum.

Bank Official Views Ruble, Republic Currency

LD1509190191 Moscow TASS in English 1712 GMT 15 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Galina Kuchina]

[Text] Riga September 15 TASS—Latvia will not join a rouble zone being established by the Soviet Union's sovereign republics. In that case it would have to give up the idea of issuing its own currency. "This is unacceptable to us," Alfreds Berg-Bergmanis, vice-president of the Bank of Latvia, told TASS.

Upon returning home from a conference at the USSR State Bank (Gosbank), he said: "Certain complexities are inevitable for us". He believes that the complexities come to the following: representatives of the Bank of Russia and other banks made it clear that they would not accept for settlements a Latvian tender—the lats. They argue that the reliability of the lats is unknown and that then a freely convertible currency would be more preferable.

Latvia's own money will appear by summer next year. This means that the rouble will remain in circulation until then. The problem is how to keep afloat by means of rouble reserves. Berg-Bergmanis believes that there is almost no hope that Moscow would replenish rouble banknote resources in Latvia.

"There is a huge deficit of money in the Soviet Union. There is nothing to pay people their wages and salaries with," the financier explained. "Therefore the products of the mint would be supplied primarily for one's own people and hardly anything would be left for 'strangers'".

The rouble supply in Latvia is ample so far. The republic has controlled the consumption fund and the growth of wages and salaries. Restrictions have been introduced to prevent any cashless sums of money from being removed from accounts and from being turned into cash.

One of the latest measures is quite tough: all money transferred to private accounts from outside Latvia is remitted back.

As for further relations with republics of the "rouble area", Berg-Bergmanis believes that through participating as an observer in a new banking structure being created to take the place of the former Gosbank board, Latvia will manage to find acceptable terms for cooperation.

Official Acts To Avoid Cash Shortages

OW1609115291 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1040 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Deputy head of the Bank of Latvia, Alfreds Berg-Bergmanis, has told BF's [BALTFAX] reporter that Latvian citizens will not be able to receive money transferred to their bank accounts from the USSR. He explained this decision by the need to avoid cash shortages in the republic's banks, since "Latvia will receive no money from the USSR." Mr. Berg-Bergmanis ordered that the post offices should not accept oney orders from the USSR, Estonia, and Lithuania. The Bank of Latvia will not accept Soviet certificates or bonds for exchange.

Bank To Freeze Money Transferred From USSR

OW1709000791 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2037 GMT 16 Sep 91

[From the "Soviet Business Report"; Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Latvian Bank says it will freeze all money transferred to the accounts of Latvian citizens from the USSR and will not accept for payment any USSR bank certificates or bonds. Postal orders from other republics will not be given to the addressees, either.

The Latvian Bank President Alfred Berg-Bargmanis has told BF [BALTFAX] that this measure will help prevent a drastic reduction of the amount of cash in Latvian banks.

Lithuania

Polish Minority Issue Seen as 'National Conflict'

PM1609123591 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Sep 91 Union Edition p 5

[Report from "IZVESTIYA Teletype Room" reports roundup: "Conflict Develops Between Lithuania and Poland"]

[Text] To all appearances Lithuania and Poland have found themselves on the threshold of a national conflict provoked by the Lithuanian leadership's actions regarding the Polish national minority living on Lithuanian territory.

On Wednesday, the PAP [Polish Press Agency] stated Warsaw's sharply negative reaction to the decision taken by the Lithuanian leadership to dissolve the two local soviets of people's deputies in places densely populated by the Polish national minority. According to the PAP report, Polish Foreign Minister K. Skubiszewski, during a meeting with Lithuanian Foreign Minister A. Saudargas in Moscow Tuesday, pointed out that these actions by the Lithuanian leadership strike a direct blow to the interests of the 280,000 Poles living in Lithuania. This detachment of national minorities comprises no more and no less than 7 percent of the country's total population, which is 3.6 million. Where the local soviets have been dissolved the Polish population is respectively 80 and 60 percent of the population. Stressing that Poland does not intend to interfere in Lithuania's internal affairs, K. Skubiszewski nonetheless stated that in these conditions Warsaw does not want to remain passive. It will be obliged to defend the rights of its compatriots living in the neighboring country. In its report on the meeting between the two ministers PAP does not cite the reaction in response to this statement.

Vagnorius Protests Report

LD1609043591 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1900 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] Lithuanian Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius sent a telegram to IZVESTIYA editor in chief Golembiovsky, with a copy to Russian Prime Minister Silayev, stating that a late report in IZVESTIYA gave a biased and distorted presentation of relations between the Republic of Poland and the Republic of Lithuania.

A report "A Conflict Is Ripening Between Lithuania and Poland", published in the 13 September issue of the newspaper, maintains that Lithuania and Poland are on the verge of a nationality conflict that has been provoked by the actions of the Lithuanian Government toward the Polish minority living on the territory of Lithuania.

We are compelled to draw your attention, says the telegram, that similar statements do not reflect the reality and do not strengthen mutual trust between Russia and Lithuania. The legal actions that were taken by the Lithuanian Supreme Council and Government concerning the three rayon offcials who supported the military coup must not serve as a pretext to aggravate inter-nationality relations and to interfere in the internal affairs of our country, the telegram stresses.

Walesa Voices 'Anxiety'

PM1709093191 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Sep 91 Union Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Dialogue Needed"]

[Text] Lithuanian Supreme Soviet Chairman Landsbergis has been presented with a letter from Polish President Lech Walesa expressing satisfaction at the restoration of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

"At the same time there is anxiety over cases of the deteriorating position of people of Polish nationality living n Lithuania. This anxiety is aggravated by the introduction of direct rule on the territory where they live, which could lead to unfavorable changes in the Poles' situation," L. Walesa writes.

"Poland attaches enormous importance to creating in accordance with international norms appropriate conditions for the defense and development of the national identity of Poles living in other countries. There is anxiety that so far, despite the steps which the Polish side is taking, the question of giving Poles Lithuanian citizenship remains unsettled," the letter says.

The head of the Polish state stressed the need to conduct dialogue with a view to the positive regulation of Polish-Lithuanian relations and also questions connected with meeting the requirements and desires of the Polish minority in Lithuanian.

Vagnorius Looks To Open 'New Chapter' in Germany

LD1609165891 Moscow TASS in English 1511 GMT 16 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Mikhail Stepovik]

[Text] Bonn September 16 TASS—Lithuanian Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius arrived here today on a visit.

The prime minister's schedule will include negotiations with Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Foreign Minister Hans Dietrich Genscher, as well as meetings with representatives of the German business community.

The main aim of the visit is to expand the recently established contacts between the two nations, Vagnorius told the DPA news agency.

He praised the role of Germany as it actively supported the admission of the Baltic states to the CSCE membership. The Lithuanian prime minister expressed the assurance that his current visit will "enable the opening of a new chapter" in relations between the two countries.

Previews Bonn Talks

LD1609102791 Hamburg DPA in German 0918 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Vilnius (DPA)—Gediminas Vagnorius, chairman of the Lithuanian Council of Ministers, intends to start a "completely new chapter" in Lithuanian-German relations. Directly before his departure on a three-day visit to the Federal Republic of Germany, Vagnorius told DPA in Vilnius that he wants to continue the German-Lithuanian dialogue which got under way over the past few days. Vagnorius will meet Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, and other politicians and representatives from industry for detailed talks in Bonn.

Vagnorius praised the role the Federal Republic played in Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia becoming members of the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) which stemmed from a suggestion made by Genscher. Now, Vilnius hopes that Bonn will also help the Balts join other international organizations and institutions. In Bonn, Vagnorius first intends to discuss opportunities for economic, scientific, and technical aid for the Baltic states.

Spanish Daily Interviews Landsbergis

PM1709091491 Barcelona LA VANGUARDIA in Spanish 8 Sep 91 p 10

[Interview with Lithuanian President Landsbergis by Luis Amiguet in Vilnius on 7 September]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Amiguet] Now that Moscow has recognized Lithuania, I suppose that you are expecting Spanish recognition at any time.

[Landsbergis] It is certainly taking longer than we expected, but I am convinced that Madrid will finally join the international community soon.

[Amiguet] Perhaps Madrid's delay is due to its fear that the Baltic countries' example will spread in Spain, where, as you know, there are also nationalist demands.

[Landsbergis] It is an understandable fear. Nevertheless, I wish to draw a distinction: Our national identity was historical, and was suppressed by a brutal invasion agreed by Hitler and Stalin over 40 years ago. Right now we are only recovering a process which was interrupted at that time.

[Amiguet] Do you mean that you do not sympathize with other European countries' nationalist aspirations?

[Landsbergis] I mean that we are a state and must fulfill our international commitments between states to this effect. The cases of Catalonia and the Basque Country in Spain are understandable, but I must above all condemn violence absolutely and totally. Nobody will ever achieve independence through terrorism, bombs, and violence—and we are an example. Violence is absolutely reprehensible, and no nationalist feeling can justify it.

[Amiguet] Has independence changed your feeling of solidarity with other European nationalist aspirations?

[Landsbergis] I am a statesman and must think as such. We have commitments in the international forums which we will carefully respect, and the state's interest stands above any other consideration. We will respect our international commitments and the member countries of the forums which we seek to enter, of course.

[Amiguet] You are going to visit Barcelona soon, so I understand.

[Landsbergis] Well, no, I am going to visit Madrid first, definitely. First, Madrid, and I am going to do so at the university's invitation to open the academic year in October. In any event, it is too early to give specific details of my visit. Perhaps I will also visit Barcelona.

[Amiguet] The blocs' disappearance has made possible the emergence of new states such as yours...

[Landsbergis] We are not emerging. We are recovering independence. Remember again that we were a modern and independent state just 50 years ago.

[Amiguet] We are experiencing a wave of nationalist demands throughout Europe. How do you interpret it?

[Landsbergis] I believe that this energy is positive. I traveled through Europe this summer and perceived this energy in France and in Italy. In Italy, Lombardy also has its nationalism, and in France, too, and, of course, in Spain. [sentence as published] That can be positive, provided that there is never recourse to organized violence to secure political gains. I will always condemn that violence. It is futile and savage. Terrorism would never have given us independence, so I cannot accept terrorism's being equated with nationalism, and it grieves me to see the Basque situation in Spain.

[Amiguet] One unresolved problem is the Red Army's departure from your territory. An agreement has already been reached with Moscow, which has accepted that all Soviet troops should leave the Baltic republics. Latvian President Gorbunovs speaks of two years. What about yourself?

[Landsbergis] I hope that it will be less. They are here. They are prepared to negotiate, and it is only necessary to reach agreement. I hope that it will be less than two years.

[Amiguet] Mr. President, what model of defense do you intend to apply?

[Landsbergis] The Swiss model would be attractive. We are interested in being an absolutely neutral country, but I believe that we should still reach specific agreements with the other Baltic republics in order perhaps to agree on a common model of defense.

[Amiguet] Gorbunovs has spoken of a Benelux...

[Landsbergis] Yes, that would be a good economic model, but I will tell you that these are matters which we will negotiate carefully over the next few days. I believe that we can reach an agreement with the other Baltic states which have also just achieved independence and face similar problems.

[Amiguet] You know that there are nationalist movements without a state.

[Landsbergis] We are now a state and must think as such, but I am convinced that there are other nationalist movements in Europe which could consolidate into states provided that there is no violence in the process and that they are able to negotiate. Perhaps the Catalonian and Basque nationalist movements could be viable as far as independence some day.

Delegation Leaves for UNGA Session

LD1609091691 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 0730 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] A Lithuanian Republic [delegation] has left for New York to take part in the work of the 46th United Nations General Assembly [UNGA] session which is to address the question of accepting the Lithuanian Republic to the international community. The delegation includes Supreme Council Chairman Vytaustas Landsbergis; Foreign Minister Algirdas Saudargas; and Emanuelis Zingeris, Chairman of the standing parliamentary commission for foreign relations. The Lithuanian media report that the Chairman of the Lithuanian parliament is set to make a speech on 17 September at the first UNGA session.

KGB General Fedoseyev Recalled

LD1509180291 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 1530 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] USSR KGB General Fedoseyev, who until now has been leading the elimination of KGB subunits in the republic, has been recalled from Lithuania. The Lithuanian Government's press bureau has also reported that Vadim Bakatin, chairman of the country's KGB, has released Stanislav Tsaplin, the sadly well-known deputy chairman of the subunits of the USSR KGB in Lithuania, from the post which he held and has agreed that he should be questioned by employees of the procuracy of the Lithuanian Republic.

Supreme Soviet Immigration Law Effective 1 Jan

PM1609103991 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Sep 91 Union Edition p 1

[Untitled report from roundup of IZVESTIYA, TASS, REUTER, INTERFAX, and RIA reports]

[Text] A law on immigration adopted by the Lithuanian Supreme Soviet enters into force on Lithuanian territory as of 1 January.

Foreigners can immigrate to Lithuania only with an invitation from citizens of the republic and only after receiving legal authorization from the Ministry of Internal Affairs for residence in Lithuania. The annual immigration quota is set by the republic's Supreme Soviet.

Republic Atomic Plant Management Discussed

OW1309164791 Tokyo KYODO in English 1346 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] Fukushima, Sept. 13 KYODO—The Lithuanian Republic Government is negotiating with the Soviet central government over the management and ownership of the Ignalina atomic power station in the republic, a Lithuanian official said here Friday.

Sergei Petrov, a manager at the Ignalina atomic power station, made the remark at a news conference in Fukushima, northeast of Tokyo, at the No. 1 Fukushima atomic power station of Tokyo Electric Power Co. in Fukushima Prefecture.

He said that at the moment it is technically difficult to transfer the management of the atomic power plants to the republic.

The official said he feels it is desirable for safety reasons that atomic power plants should be managed by a federation-republic joint venture.

He said the operation of the atomic power plants should remain under the charge of the central government, but that the plants' assets should be placed under the republic's ownership.

Petrov and four other officials from the Lithuanian power station are receiving safety training at the Fukushima station in cooperation with the World Association of Nuclear Operators.

He told reporters that shortly after an accident at the Chernobyl atomic power station near Kiev in April 1986, the Soviet boiling water type nuclear reactors, the same type as the ones at Chernobyl, have been upgraded, and the engineers in charge have also undergone improved training.

Petrov added, however, that the projects for construction of nuclear reactors of the same type as the Chernobyl plant have been shelved.

Federation Affairs

Yeltsin Curtails Union Control Over Industries

OW1309174691 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1530 GMT 13 Sep 91

[From the "Business Weekly" feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia's President Boris Yeltsin curtailed the operation on Russian territory of the central government's ministries for the coal, oil and gas industries, the nuclear power industry and the Gazprom and Neftegazprom concerns.

Under the decree, officials of the former Union ministries and concerns shall be accountable to the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic Government.

Decree: President Controls Council of Ministers

LD1309184191 Moscow Radio Rossi Network in Russian 1100 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] In accordance with a decree by the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] president, the republican Council of Ministers is subordinate to the republican president from now on and it will operate under his leadership. It has been established that the RSFSR president will control the work of the RSFSR Council of Ministers and chair its sittings, if necessary.

Yeltsin Commutes Sentences of 21 on Death Row

OW1409181291 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1500 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On September 14 the Russian President Boris Yeltsin, having considered the appeals of people condemned to death, signed a decree on pardoning 21 of them. Their death sentences were replaced by long terms of imprisonment.

Most of the pardoned are young people convicted for the first time. Their youth and open-hearted repentance make it possible to hope that they will atone for what they did, the Russian president's decree says.

Democratic Russia Wants Meeting With Yeltsin

OW1609202891 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1845 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A delegation of the Democratic Russia is pressing for a meeting with Russian President Boris Yeltsin to inform him of the criticism of the officials appointed by the president's staff as his local representatives, said co-chairman of the coordination council of the Democratic Russia Lev Ponomaryov at a Monday press-conference in Moscow.

According to Ponomaryov, delegations from a number of regions expressed dissatisfaction with the low tempo of the reforms at the plenum of the council of the movement's representatives that closed on Monday. "The conservative forces are taking advantage of the lull to seize the posts in the bodies of the executive power and the new economic structures," said he.

Ponomaryov said that the council of the representatives decided to support the Russian authorities, but not unconditionally.

The documents passed by the plenum of the Democratic Russia Council of Representatives say that "the uncontrollable strengthening of the executive power can lead to the suppression of the legislative arm and the emergence of a new authoritarianism."

The Democratic Russia supports early multiparty elections for legislative bodies at all levels in early 1992. The movement plans to make common front at the election.

The movement's coordination committee was instructed to prepare for the establishment of a "shadow government."

Media Official Says Yeltsin Will Back Gorbachev

LD1409105591 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak in Russian 0000 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] Viktor Yudin, chairman of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic of the Supreme Soviet Committee for Mass Media, Contacts With Public Organizations, Mass Information Reports to Citizens, and Public Opinion Studies, as reported by the Info-Nova agency, has expressed the opinion that in the next elections for USSR president it is precisely Gorbachev that Boris Yeltsin will support.

According to Yudin, in a situation when the republics are handing over to the USSR president a small, but extremely important range of powers, it is hardly likely that there is a politician who can get a dialogue going with the leaders of the republics that have expressed themselves in favor of membership of the new Union and conduct affairs with the leaders of foreign states as successfully as Gorbachev.

Title of Grand Duke Conferred on Yeltsin

LD1409034391 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0937 GMT 13 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Vyacheslav Zenkovich]

[Text] Moscow, 13 Sep (TASS)—Aleksey Brumel, regent of the Russian Monarchy, has signed a document conferring the title of grand prince on Boris Yeltsin.

Such a high honor has been bestowed on the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] president "for courage and resolution displayed during the tragic days of August." As Aleksey Brumel explained to TASS,

Boris Yeltsin is to decide himself whether to accept the title or not. "He has the right to refuse," the regent of the Russian monarchy said.

'Practical Joke' Revealed

LD1409163491 Moscow TASS in English 0852 GMT 14 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Vladimir Shvets]

[Text] Paris September 14 TASS—A report that President Boris Yeltsin of Russia was offered the title of Grand Duke by a certain Aleksey Brumel, allegedly "the regent of Russian monarchy", was a "practical joke", Grand Duke Vladimir, the head of the family of the last of the Russian tsars, who resides in France, stated on Friday.

In a communique issued here, the head of the House of the Romanovs pointed out in particular: "There is no regent in our family. Mr. Aleksey Brumel is absolutley unknown to us and is an impostor".

Deputy Tarasov Message States Resignation

OW1709120791 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1020 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On a visit abroad, Artem Tarasov has resigned as a Russian people's deputy. He did so in a message addressed to Russia's President Boris Yeltsin. He explained that he has no moral right to occupy a seat that should belong to "worthier people who risked their lives at a critical time."

In the same message, Artem Tarasov pointed out that he wants the 9 million dollars on the account of the "Istok" Association "frozen illegally on Gorbachev-Pavlov orders" to be spent on the "needs of Russia."

He will continue to do all he can to attract Western investment to the private sector of Russia's economy, said Artem Tarasov. He believes that it's impossible for him to work in the USSR as long as Mikhail Gorbachev "who spoiled my life and the lives of thousands of people in exile" remains president of the USSR.

Republican Council Chairman Criticizes Decisions

LD1309215691 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1726 GMT 12 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Nadyezhda Potapova]

[Text] Sverdlovsk, 12 Sep (TASS)—Vladimir Isakov, chairman of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] Supreme Soviet Republic Council, speaking at a news conference here, condemned some decisions by the Russian leadership which have been made, in his view, "without the letter of the law or even common sense having been observed." The August coup, in his words, "resembled a spectacle, a provocation" that should entail real martial law, since, compared to what the democrats are doing, "it would seem to be necessary." The economic situation of the country and most people continue to worsen, said Vladimir Isakov. He also called the actions against the CPSU "unjust and resembling reprisals and revenge."

"I am no longer within its ranks. I criticized a lot the methods of its leadership, but I was shocked when I saw with what fervor people are dividing its property—the selfsame people who only yesterday banned all types of confiscation through the Russian law on ownership. I criticized the lawlessness of the old authorities and am compelled to criticize the very same methods of the new authorities."

Deputies, Burbulis Discuss Presidential Structures

LD1309201191 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0300 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] People's deputies recently met with Gennadiy Burbulis, Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] secretary of state, and representatives of the presidential administration to discuss interaction between the Supreme Soviet and the Russian president. Our correspondent, Yelena Kuznetsova, speaks about this event:

[Kuznetsova] Gennadiy Burbulis presented Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin's position. The president is convinced that more systematic and profound interaction with the Supreme Soviet is needed. A year has already passed and the situation is different today. The presidential system cannot be efficient without a strong parliamentary body. Boris Nikolayevich believes that the idea that the president has forgotten about the parliament since having been elected should be discarded. There is a threat that initiative can be preempted in this manner. The presidential system envisages a fundamental change in the essence of relations of power in Russia. It has been proposed to form new bodies within the framework of presidential administration as a tentative provisional measure. They should be easily controlled.

So what is changing within the structure of presidential power? The State Council, a provisional structure and a body with consultative status, has been set up. The institute of state councillors has been introduced. Regarding the Council of Ministers, it has a real possibility of dealing with the economy and managerial practice. A consultative body of the Federation Council has been set up and includes heads of executive power.

Deputies asked a number of questions, including on the position on plenary powers for the mayor's office in regard to privatization and price policy. Here is what the secretary of state said in reply: The following conclusion has been drawn. A strange thing has taken place. We can see that the system of business emerging in a totalitarian economy had to find access to Pavlov and his cabinet. Moscow is simply a corrupt lair. This town remains a

risky laboratory; therefore the president understands the decisions of the mayor's office on this account.

Yet another question was asked: Is Boris Nikolayevich familiar with a letter from a number of deputies, including the Smena group, which criticizes his latest decrees as being at variance with the Constitution? The answer admitted that, indeed, there are such differences in certain decrees, which is bad, of course. These documents should be set out in a more clear-cut manner. The establishment of a constitutional committee is already under discussion.

Deputies also asked why General Konstantin Kobets has been removed from his post. Here is what the secretary of state said: Today the Ministry of Defense is one of the primary reforms of the Russian Government. Grachev is both first deputy minister of defense and chairman of the committee for defense issues of Russia. This is the most important sector for ensuring stability. There is an accord with Konstantin Kobets on setting up a committee for military reform, which he will head.

These were the issues discussed at the meeting of the secretary of state with people's deputies. It was decided to hold such meetings on a regular basis, at least once a month.

Russian Representation in Union Parliament Viewed

Supreme Council Examines Issue

LD1309231691 Moscow TASS in English 1724 GMT 13 Sep 91

[By TASS parliamentary correspondent Yuriy Kozmin]

[Text] Moscow September 13 TASS—Today's meeting of the Russian Federation Supreme Council discussed who will represent the interests of the Russian Federation with its population of over 150 million in the renewed parliament of the Union.

As is known, representatives of the Russian Federation will enter the Council of Republics, one of the chambers of the Union parliament. The 52 people's deputies from Russia will include 20 persons who are people's deputies of the USSR and the Russian Federation, 31 deputies from national-territorial formations and one from nationalities that do not have their national-territorial formations in the Russian territory.

Parliamentarians of the republic proposed that each of the 15 groups of the Supreme Council should send their representatives to the Council of Republics. Some declared in favour of deputies representing not political groups but regions of Russia. They believe that in this case each region would have the same representation as an autonomous republic.

Early next week people's deputies from Russia will be given lists of candidates to the Union parliament from among whom they should select their representatives to the Union parliament.

Supreme Soviet Views Representation

OW1309212591 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1900 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet has discussed the issue of Russia's representation in the Council of the Republics of the USSR Supreme Soviet. The Russian Federation has been offered 52 seats in the national parliament, of which 20 seats have to be distributed among representatives of various regions and autonomies. Each republic within Russia will nominate one candidate, of whom 10 or 15 will then be selected. The rest of the parliamentary seats will be occupied by representatives of ethnic autonomies and the peoples without such a status.

The Russian parliament also discussed suggestions that USSR and RSFSR People's Deputies be checked for their affiliation with secret services at any time in the past. Assistance in this work is expected from the state commission investigating the KGB performance during the recent coup d'etat.

Meanwhile, the sociological service of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet has published the findings of a poll carried out to check the popularity rating of USSR and RSFSR parliamentarians. Only one MP [Member of Parliament], the late Andrey Sakharov, appeared to have the highest rating (+100). Yegor Ligachev and Ivan Polozkov were found to have the lowest rating (-100). Members of the Inter-Regional Deputies' Group have popularity rating between +60 and +80. Gorbachev's rating is -88, Yeltsin's +62, Sobchak's -8, Travkin's +5, etc.

Supreme Soviet To Discuss Proposed Constitution

LD1609182191 Moscow TASS in English 1626 GMT 16 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow September 16 TASS—Today's meeting of the Russian Supreme Soviet Presidium decided to begin the discussion of the draft Russian constitution that had been prepared by a working group of the Russian Constitutional Commission.

The draft fundamental law describes Russia as a "sovereign, democratic, law-governed and social state of historically united peoples". The state, its bodies and officials shall be "responsible to the person and citizen, and serve the whole society and not a part of it".

"The natural and inalienable right to property" was declared by the draft constitution as one of the major

guarantees of the fulfillment of human rights and freedoms. The draft said that the basis of the Russian economy shall be the social market economy.

The draft Russian constitution will be discussed at a meeting of the republican constitutional commission on September 17. Then it will be considered at parliamentary committees and commissions, as well as at meetings of the Russian Supreme Soviet.

The authors of the document believe that the draft could be submitted for consideration to the fifth extraordinary Congress of People's Deputies of the Russian Federation, which is expected to resume its work on October 28.

The presidium of the Russian Supreme Soviet analyzed the activities of councils of people's deputies of autonomous republics, regions and territories, which were part of the Russian Federation during the coup on August 19-21.

The reaction of local power bodies to the anti-constitutional coup was different, the Presidium's resolution says. During the first two days of the coup, 11 councils supported the so-called emergency committee, 45 dissociated themselves from the committee and 32 kept to the wait-and-see policy.

This fact, to a certain extend, reflects the current correlation of democratic forces in councils of the Russian Federation, the document says.

At the same time, the fact that the majority of local power bodies refused to support the conspirators, predetermined the failure of the coup. As it is known, heads of several Russian regions and territories were relieved from their duties for their support of the so-called emergency committee, in accordance with the decree of the Russian president.

Presidium Considers 'Double Citizenship'

LD1609183591 Moscow All-Union Radio First Program Radio-1 Network in Russian 1600 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Report by correspondent Vladimir Perfiliyev on the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic (RSFSR) Supreme Soviet Presidium session in Moscow on 16 September]

[Text] There are 16 issues of state importance on the agenda. The first to be considered is the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] draft law on the elections of local administration heads. A decision on this has already been adopted and a draft sent to the committees and commissions. The elections of local administration members in rayons, towns, settlements, and rural soviets will be carried out by Russian citizens on the basis of direct and equal universal suffrage and through secret ballot. The local administration head will be elected for a five-year term. A special feature of this draft bill is the fact that contenders will now be nominated both by meetings of voters and by labor collectives.

There was discussion on the Russian Federation draft law on RSFSR citizenship. It is too complicated to give full details, so I will merely draw attention to the fact that a double citizenship is being introduced for the first time. For example, the possibility is arising for those residents of Russia who have settled in the Baltic republics to have double citizenship, though it is true that this is only if agreements are concluded between the Baltic republics and Russia.

Also examined was the issue of the work of the soviets and their leaders during the coup d'etat. Sessions have now been held in 20 republics, in 53 oblasts, and in Moscow and St. Petersburg. The majority of soviets have drawn appropriate conclusions, but soviet chairmen have been dismissed in 12 regions. Supreme Soviet chairmen have been dismissed in Buryatiya, Kabardino-Balkariya, Chuvashiya, Bryanks, Kursk, Penza, and Saratov, as well as in the Altay, Krasnoyarsk, and Maritime Krays.

In conclusion, Presidium members will today consider issues for the RSFSR Supreme Soviet fourth session—which opens 19 September, as we have said repeatedly—and for the fifth congress of people's deputies of the Russian Federation.

Supreme Soviet Schedules 24 Nov Local Elections

LD1609223191 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2000 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Elections for local administration heads in the Russian Federation are scheduled for 24 November. This date was fixed in the draft law on elections of heads of local administration, which, together with the draft law on Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] citizenship, was approved by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Presidium on 16 September. The presidium also heard the RSFSR draft constitution and sent it to committees and commissions for the latter to present their remarks and proposals before 1 October. It was decided to set up an RSFSR parliamentary center in the former Political Education House, on Trubnaya Ploshchad, Moscow. Questions on the activities of regional government organs during the coup d'etat were insufficiently prepared, so the debate was postponed until the next meeting.

Supreme Soviet on 'Invalid' Property Deals

LD1709111991 Moscow TASS in English 1026 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] Moscow September 17 TASS—The presidium of the Russia's Supreme Soviet (parliament) said in a statement released here today that it will regard as invalid any deals involving property, valuables, assets and installations belonging to the Soviet Communist

Party, as well as to organisations, enterprises or offices within it, both in the USSR and abroad.

The statement notes that the move was prompted by the desire "to suppress any deals involving party property until its fate is determined by law".

The statement was released in connection with the appearance of reports in the mass media on commercial deals aimed at "concealing or misappropriating the party property by different legal or natural persons".

Zyuganov Decries Suspension of Communist Party

OW1609160491 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1500 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Gennadiy Zyuganov, a member of the Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee of the Russian Republic's Communist Party [CP], considered the way in which the resolution on the suspension of the party's activity was carried out illegally. In his announcement to the agency "INTERFAX" he said, "the extraordinary decisions in relation with the CPSU and the Russian CP and subsequent actions do not have any serious juridical basis. Horeover, in the opinion of many great law specialists, these represent a chain of gross breaches of the USSR and the Russian Republic's constitutions and present laws." In his announcement he expresses the desire that the USSR and the Russian Republic's presidents will abolish their decrees, which in fact gave a cloak of legality to the massive breach of civil rights of millions of people, and of economic and property abuse. It is indispensable to restore the conditions for the functioning of all the legally elected party organs including also a convocation of a plenum of the Central Committee of the Russian Republic's Communist Party and a congress, so that the communists themselves can determine the party's future fate and its belongings, starting from the needs of the masses at large. Gennady Zyuganov called for the law enforcement organs to stop the pilfering of party property. Today the communists are deprived of the possibility to carry out meetings and press conferences, in which they would be able to promulgate their position. I think that world public opinion and international law-defending organizations will not discard the flagrant facts of massive discrimination of people because of political reasons and will send their observers for an objective, legal and moral appraisal of the current situation.

Prosecutor Cited on Emergency Committee Inquiry

LD1609231591 Moscow All-Union Radio First Program Radio-1 Network in Russian 1600 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] A TASS correspondent has interviewed Valentin Stepankov, prosecutor general of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR], about the progress of the investigation in the case of the leaders of the State Committee for the State of Emergency. Here are some of Valentin Georgiyevich's replies: It is impossible to give a clear picture of the progress of the investigation through the mass media, but the Prosecutor General cannot draw conclusions because the investigation is in its initial stage and only the court has the right to assess its results. Dealing with the appearance in the localities of numerous groups for the investigation of the actions of officials during the August putsch, Valentin Stepankov noted that the fact itself that such a group or commission has made its appearance is not against the law because the law on the status of the people's deputy provides for investigations by deputies to be carried out. But conditions are placed upon the powers of the deputies and it is stressed particularly that no commission of deputies has the right to interfere in the procedural side of the activity of the court, the procuracy, and the militia. The opinion of the RSFSR Prosecutor General about the death penalty is as follows: In the first place, the number of articles that provide for the death penalty has been reduced slightly in our country. The death penalty should remain as the supreme measure of punishment. As far as how this issue applies to the members of the State Committee for the State of Emergency, their fate will be decided by the court. Valentin Georgiyevich believes that it is premature to make predictions. And the last point: there is no pressure from anyone during the course of the investigation.

Anti-Monopoly Program Being Investigated

LD1409184291 Moscow TASS in English 1313 GMT 14 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Viktor Petrenko]

[Text] Moscow September 14 TASS—Scientists and experts of the Russian Federation have set about working out a long-term anti-monopoly programme.

Such a programme will make it possible, in particular, to rapidly break up enterprises and amalgamations into smaller units, attract Western businessmen to the Russian market, creating competition to domestically produced goods, Valeriy Chernogorodskiy, chairman of Russia's State Committee for Anti-Monopoly Policy and Support for New Economic Structures, told TASS.

By way of example, he cited the sphere of the production and marketing of computing equipment, where imported equipment prompted Soviet monopolies—defence-related ministries—to begin urgently to modernise their output and improve its servicing quality.

Touching upon problems that hinder the development of entrepreneurship, the committee chairman pointed primarily to the imperfection of legislation concerning new forms of economic management.

The Russian parliament has already adopted a number of important laws that are up to world standards. However, the lack of many normative documents that constitute a mechanism for the realisation of newly adopted laws is still felt keenly, he said.

Therefore, an inter-agency coordinating council is to be set up, to include representatives of both the state sector of the economy and the entrepreneurial movement. Due to this both sides will have an opportunity to directly participate in the law-making process and carry their viewpoints through.

Noting the importance of organising the training of entrepreneurs, Chernogorodskiy said that an economic education system that would meet the requirements of local businessmen has not yet taken shape.

Foreign firms should be more actively invited to participate in efforts in this respect, and various international foundations should be used more widely, Chernogorodskiy believes.

The committee, for its part, is setting up a fund of support for entrepreneurship. Research into and development of an education system for businessmen will be financed from this fund to a certain extent.

Ministry Aide Examines Food Supply Situation

PM1309115291 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 13 Sep 91 p 1

[TASS correspondent A. Markov report on interview with M. Abdulbasirov, RSFSR (Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic) first deputy minister of agriculture and food, in Moscow; date not given: "Before the RSFSR Supreme Soviet Session"]

[Text] Moscow, 12 Sep—The Fourth RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet Session begins in Moscow 19 September. In the period 19 through 27 September the Supreme Soviet Presidium proposes to submit 11 main questions to joint sessions of the chambers. One of them is: "On Ensuring Food Supplies to the RSFSR Population."

"How is the procurement of agricultural produce going? What are the prospects for supplying Russia's inhabitants with food products?"—your TASS correspondent put these questions to M. Abdulbasirov, RSFSR first deputy minister of agriculture and food.

In his assessment, the situation regarding the production of agricultural products in the republic is complex.

The main reason for this situation, in the opinion of the ministry leader, is the fact that many farms are not prepared for working in conditions in which old ties have been broken and new ones have yet to form. Traditional contacts with industry have also been disrupted. As a result agriculture failed to receive a large quantity of harvesting equipment, transport, subassemblies, and fuel. This has affected the course of procurements and exacerbated the already complex situation in the sector.

External Affairs

St. Petersburg's Mayor Praises Baker Meeting

OW1409170991 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1500 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak described the results of his talks with the U.S. Secretary of State James Baker as "very successful and giving greater confidence that reforms introduced in the region are right". A. Sobchak made this assessment in an interview for IF's [INTERFAX] correspondent given after his meeting with J. Baker in St. Petersburg.

According to American sources, the talks involved efforts to work out the concepts of a strategic program for political and economic cooperation between the U.S. Administration and St. Petersburg's mayoralty. The general principles of such cooperation were agreed upon.

Besides, the two sides reached an agreement on the possibility of guaranteed credits for some cooperation programs by American banks.

J. Baker is expected to return to St. Petersburg Saturday evening after his one-day trip to the Baltic countries and stay there till Sunday afternoon.

Khasbulatov Continues Japan Talks, Notes Progress

Kuriles Dispute Remains

PM1609135191 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 14 Sep 91 Single Edition p 7

[Report by correspondent I. Latyshev: "Stumbling-Block Islands"]

[Text] Tokyo, 13 Sep—In the past three weeks since the collapse of the putschist coup in the Soviet Union, Tokyo political strategists have made substantive amendments to the policy pursued by Japan regarding our country. These boil down to the fact that, whereas before main stress was laid on talks with the central Soviet Government, main attention will now be devoted to talks with the Russian Government.

The Japanese side's desire to organize contacts with the Russian leadership is already being implemented: Over the past five days an RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet delegation headed by R.I. Khasbulatov, acting chairman of the Supreme Soviet, has been in Tokyo at the invitation of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP]. During its stay the head of the delegation and its members have been

received by leading statesmen and politicians in the country, including Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, Foreign Ministry Taro Nakayama, LDP General Secretary Keizo Obuchi, and many others.

In all their discussions the Russian guests placed main emphasis on economic issues. They repeatedly raised the question of the possibility of Japan's granting Russia large-scale emergency economic aid. It was a question of granting Russia large government credits, the size of which—as R.I. Khasbulatov explained at a conference yesterday—"should be reckoned in billions rather than millions of dollars."

Other questions were raised by the Japanese statesmen and politicians during the discussions. Their main attention was focused on presenting to the Russian guests' the well-known territorial claims on the four southern Kuril Islands. This persistence is explained by the fact that Tokyo believes that the new situation in the USSR gives Japan the "best chance to get the islands returned" and that it should strive to realize its territorial demands "this year."

Judging by everything, the leaders of the Russian delegation deemed it best to avoid as far as possible any specific discussion of controversial issues. In the talks the delegation concentrated on the fact that "henceforth Russia is an independent entity in international relations and plans to build its mutual relations with Japan as it sees fit." The delegation hinted that the Russian Government is prepared to enter into talks with Japan in the very near future and to amend its former views of ways to resolve the territorial question and the timetable for so doing.

In his talks with the Japanese the head of the Russian parliamentary delegation also expressed some personal views. Thus, for instance, at yesterday's news conference Khasbulatov criticized the "reactionary, mythical stereotypes of the past" prevailing in our country and which, in essence, boil down to the fact that "any territorial concession is seen as a sellout of national interests." In the same connection he stated his intention to promote the surmounting of such stereotypes in Soviet people's public awareness and to cultivate in them a "fair attitude toward the Japanese people."

But however transparent were the hints made by the head of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet delegation to the effect that the Russian leadership is henceforth prepared to meet the Japanese halfway over territorial demands, the Japanese side nonetheless failed to assess them properly. Evidence of that is provided by the editorials in today's Tokyo newspapers, stressing their categorical disagreement with the idea of a "phased" resolution of the territorial dispute spread over several years, and advancing alternative demands for the immediate return of the four islands.

That is a general outline of the results of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet delegation's stay in Japan. The Japanese side did not get from the Russian parliamentarians any specific or clearly formulated concessions on its territorial claims, while the Russian parliamentarians were unable to reach agreement on even million-dollar, let alone billion-dollar, subsidies. Nonetheless, the meetings should not be seen as fruitless: During them a certain amount of useful progress was made in both countries' positions, and their desire to meet each other halfway was revealed.

Japanese Envoy Views Visit

LD1309204191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1430 GMT 13 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Dmitriy Bandura]

[Text] Moscow, 13 Sep (TASS)—The visit to Japan by a delegation of Soviet parliamentarians headed by Ruslan Khasbulatov, acting chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR], "has marked progress on the path toward the conclusion of a peace treaty." This view was expressed by Sumio Edamura, the Japanese ambassador in the USSR, in an interview with a TASS correspondent.

Summing up the results of the visit, which ended today, he described "as very positive factors" the readiness of the Russian side to tackle the territorial problems on the basis of international law rather than on the basis of the results of World War II, and its desire to speed up that process. Tokyo believes that the main condition for concluding the still nonexistent peace treaty with the USSR is the return to Japan's sovereignty of Shikotan, Habomai, Kunashir, and Iturup—the four islands in the south of the Kuril Islands which went to the USSR as a result of World War II.

The Japanese ambassador rejected the view that the peace treaty talks may be the result of a deal to exchange the territory for economic cooperation. This position, he believes, is based on "the old thinking." Economic links with the USSR will be of use to Japan. In addition, a just settlement of the problems in Soviet-Japanese relations will enhance the international prestige of the USSR. With this view in mind, it is clear that the idea of a deal is groundless, stressed S. Edamura.

In reply to the question on the prospects of economic aid to the USSR, he noted that at present when it has become considerably more possible for the USSR to become a country sharing world values, the developed industrial countries have reached agreement on aid to the USSR in three areas: the preparation of a plan for economic reform, the provision, if necessary, of emergency humanitarian aid, and the rendering of technical assistance in power engineering, distribution, and conversion. Japan, S. Edamura said, has already undertaken necessary steps to send research groups to identify specific areas of demand. It has also urged the Soviet leadership to remove obstacles connected with the latest changes in relations between republics and the center.

The recent events in the USSR have led to a completely new situation, said the ambassador. A powerful wave of the democratic movement from below has arisen. Justice and legality—the principles we have always been guided by in our approach to the problems between Japan and the USSR—have triumphed. We would like to make the best use of these new conditions and give a new start to the development of bilateral relations.

Kozyrev on Possible Yeltsin Visit to S. Korea

LD1309185591 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0416 GMT 13 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Vladimir Solontsev]

[Text] Tokyo, 13 Sep (TASS)—President Boris Yeltsin of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] may visit South Korea this autumn. According to the YONHAP Agency, this was reported today by representatives of the South Korean Foreign Ministry. In their words, RSFSR Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev announced at a meeting on Thursday with members of a South Korean Government delegation visiting the Soviet Union that Yeltsin might visit Seoul in November. He pointed out that the specific dates of the visit would depend on the development of the internal political situation in the Soviet Union.

According to reports reaching here, A. V. Kozyrev handed the South Korean delegation a personal message from Yeltsin to President No Tae-u of the Republic of Korea in which, in particular, he expressed gratitude for his support during the days of the August putsch in the USSR. Immediately after the collapse of the coup No Tae-u sent a message to the Russian president in which he congratulated him on "saving the great Soviet Union and the Russian Federation from the fearful challenge thrown down by the anticonstitutional forces," and invited him to visit South Korea in the near future.

One of the main topics during the visit could be the question of the development of bilateral economic cooperation, including the provision by Seoul of aid to Russia in addition to the $3 billion which South Korea decided to offer the USSR after the establishment of diplomatic relations with it in September last year. In a recent interview, Deputy RSFSR Foreign Minister Georgiy Kunadze declared Russia's intention to establish diplomatic relations with South Korea.

Mongolian Official Evaluates Federation Talks

LD1409042491 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1358 GMT 13 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Kim Boldokhonov]

[Text] Moscow, 13 Sep (TASS)—Our talks with Russia's leaders were held in the same language: the language of full mutual understanding and striving to expand cooperation and put it on a modern international footing. This was stated in an interview with TASS by Choizhilsuren Purebdorj, deputy prime minister of the Mongolian People's Republic [MPR] Government, who headed a Mongolian Government delegation that paid a visit to Moscow. After thorough working discussions at ministries and departments of the Russian Federation the delegation met Y.F. Saburov, deputy chairman of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Council of Ministers, and was received by I.S. Silayev, head of the Russian Government.

The current visit was motivated by the complex situation in Mongolia's national economy, above all the fuel and energy supply industry, caused in particular by a great reduction in the supply of equipment and machinery from the Soviet Union. The seriousness of the situation can be appreciated if you bear in mind that 90 percent of MPR industrial enterprises were built with assistance from the USSR and equipped with Soviet technology. As the harsh winter approaches the situation has become critical.

C. Purebdorj stressed that the accord recognizing previous trade and economic agreements, contracts and other documents signed between the USSR and the MPR as valid on the territory of the RSFSR was fundamentally important. Russia accounts for 80 percent of all the external economic cooperation that the country is involved in. The Russian side will take steps to supply, within one month, spare parts and materials for the fuel and power supply industry and other vital sectors of the Mongolian economy in accordance with existing interstate treaties. It will assist in the repair of coal and power industry installations. A coordinated program of cooperation between power supply workers in the two republics has been drawn up for the autumn-winter period.

The Erdenet Mining and Enrichment Combine, a Mongolian-Soviet joint venture, which extracts copper and molybdenum ore, is starting operations under new conditions, the MPR deputy prime minister noted. It has been transformed into a Russian-Mongolian corporation and granted the greatest possible degree of economic independence.

The settling of payments by means of special accounts and commodity exchange operations is a fundamentally new aspect of our trade and economic cooperation in the period of transition to market relations, C. Purebdorj said. The reason for this is that, although both sides have decided to switch to freely convertible currency for settling accounts in two-way trade, they still do not have enough hard currency. We have also agreed that we will not charge customs duty and tax on commodities produced in the two republics and traded between them. We have agreed to grant each other access to commodity exchanges and to lift license restrictions in barter deals and border trade. We hope that these and other innovations will make it possible to restore our faltering trade to previous levels and enable our national economy to operate normally, the deputy prime minister stressed.

Vladivostok Pan-Pacific Exhibition Held

OW1309203191 Moscow Central Television First Program and Orbita Networks in Russian 0930 GMT 10 Sep 91

[Report by O. Padenko; from the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] The first international exhibition of consumer goods from Asia-Pacific countries, entitled Pan-Pacific Consumex '91, has been held in Vladivostok.

[Padenko] Eight flags from Asia-Pacific countries were simultaneously raised for the first time at the exhibition in the still closed port city of Vladivostok. Despite its semi-secret status, businessmen from the United States, Japan, China, South Korea, Hong Kong, and Thailand were allowed to bring their goods here. This was through the endeavors of our Primorskaya regional commercial and industrial chamber with whose assistance many still existent artificial obstacles were overcome. That is why nearly 70 foreign companies, among which are familiar companies like Churi, Toshiba, and Hyundai, introduced a great variety of examples of goods which they were prepared to supply immediately, everything from combs and toys to electronic goods, cars, and tractors.

The first thing that struck us was that here was this exhibition of a fantastic range of manufactured goods aimed primarily at our market, from high-tech equipment to what might be called handicrafts of less than world standards. Experienced specialists noted however that many of the goods at the exhibition were obviously out of fashion—that means that they were not in demand abroad—offered in the apparent hope that our deprived consumer would take everything on offer. The other feature that many have bitterly noticed is that the foreigners are once again offering us consumer goods and not, for example, machine tools capable of producing the same beautiful things or even spare parts. There was not even a scent of the newest technology which could correct all of our diversity.

But as far as I know, we did not ask for it either! We have no raw materials or foreign exchange to pay for it. We can purchase these exhibits after the exhibition closes for freely convertible currency, not rubles. Of course somebody will have hard currency. To be fair, I will note that this first exhibition in Vladivostok is the first step toward international trading freedom in the Far East.

Israeli Parliament Delegation Meets Counterparts

OW1309181291 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1600 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Israeli parliamentary delegation led by the head of the Knesset Commission on Immigration and Absorbtion, Michael Kleiner, has met at the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet with the chairman of the Human Rights Committee, Sergey Kovalev.

Mr. Kovalev told IF [INTERFAX] that it was the first official visit to the USSR by an Israeli Government delegation since 1967.

A group of members of the RSFSR parliament's Human Rights, International Relations and Foreign Economic Relations Committees do not rule out that the Russian Federation may soon restore diplomatic relations with Israel after they were broken off by the USSR in the late 1960's.

Vice President Rutskoy Continues Visit in Italy

Meets Leaders in Rome

LD1309230991 Moscow TASS in English 2151 GMT 13 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Nikolay Teterin]

[Text] Rome September 14 TASS—Visiting Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy on Friday met Italian Defence Minister Virginio Rognoni.

A communique distributed here by the Italian Defence Ministry press service, reads that during a long meeting held in a hearty atmosphere, they discussed the political and military situation in the world and the new distribution of forces from the political and strategic points of view.

They discussed conversion of the Soviet defence industry and technological renovations in the Soviet Union. The sides stated that Italy had been the first Western country which signed an intergovernmental agreement on the issue with the Soviet Union.

The sides also discussed changes in the Soviet Union and plans for reviving a union of sovereign states, the communique reads.

Later in the day, Rutskoy met Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti. A government spokesman said after the meeting that Andreotti and Rutskoy had agreed that Italian-Russian cooperation has a great future.

"We have come to agreement with Minister Rognoni on many issues, including that reforms are needed both in the Soviet and Italian Armies," Rutskoy told TASS after the meetings.

"Democratic processes are under way all over the Soviet Union, and the minister understands this. I proposed training Italian military specialists in our academies and Soviet specialists in Italy," Rutskoy said. "Rognoni hailed the idea. This is the formula which could allow us to cooperate in the military sphere."

"The meeting with Prime Minister Andreotti was very warm. I told him about our work with the Numisma firm, which has begun training managers for economic cooperation between Russia and Italy," Rutskoy said.

"The prime minister spoke about the prospects Italy sees for cooperation with the Soviet Union in its new form and directly with Russia," Rutskoy said.

Talks With Cossiga, Pope

LD1409184691 Moscow TASS in English 1335 GMT 14 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Dmitriy Polunin]

[Text] Rome September 14 TASS—President Francesco Cossiga of Italy today received Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy of the Russian Federation, the press service of the head of the Italian state announced.

Rutskoy was also received by Pope John Paul II at his summer residence in Castelgandolfo, the ANSA News Agency reported.

This was the pontiff's first meeting with a representative of the Russian Federation. The meeting was not of official nature but was a "courtesy visit", Joaquim Navarro Valls, head of the Vatican Press Department, emphasised.

On Friday the vice president of Russia had met Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti and Defence Minister Virginio Rognoni. Matters connected with Soviet defence industry conversion were discussed during the meetings, in particular.

Andreotti and Rutskoy agreed that the development of relations between Italy and the Russian Federation "has a great future."

French Defense Minister Arrives in Novosibirsk

LD1409164491 Moscow TASS in English 1146 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] Novosibirsk September 14 TASS—French Defence Minister Pierre Joxe, who is currently in the Soviet Union on an official visit, arrived here today.

He was met by Lieutenant-General Viktor Kopylov, commander of the troops of the Siberian Military District, Anatoliy Manokhin, representative of Russia's president in Novosibirsk Region, and by other officials.

A trip to the Akademgorodok (Academy Science City) and familiarisation with research institutes are the centrepiece of the programme of the French defence minister's stay in Novosibirsk.

Tours City, Leaves for Baykonur

LD1509140191 Moscow TASS in English 1333 GMT 15 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondents Viktor Yelmakov and Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Novosibirsk September 15 TASS— Visiting French Defence Minister Pierre Joxe was shown around the Siberian research centre outside Novosibirsk today. The minister was told about the main guidelines for research conducted here and new effective tools for developing the region's natural resources.

Chairman of the Siberian Branch of the USSR Academy of Sciences Konstantin Sivashev briefed the French minister on the work done at international research centres located near Lake Baykal, in the Altay Territory and other regions. He told the French Minister that the intention of the semi-conductor physics institute to establish a joint laboratory with French colleagues has run against counteraction of the French military establishment and Cocom [Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls] restrictions.

The French minister said in reply that he favored large-scale scientific contacts and explained that his ministry was not to blame for the impediments rooted in the international situation.

Joxe was shown around major laboratories of the institutes of theoretical and applied mechanics and nuclear physics and took in a geology museum with its impressive collection of Siberian minerals.

The French minister was accompanied by the Russian president's representative in Novosibirsk Region Anatoliy Manokhin, Lieutenant-General Viktor Kopylev, the commander of the Siberian Military District and other officials.

Later in the day, Pierre Joxe left Novosibirsk for the Baikonur space centre.

Volga German Leader Criticizes New Organization

PM1309081991 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 12 Sep 91 p 2

[Report by S. Orlyuk: "How Are We To Develop the Volga Region?"]

[Text] "You can call me Georgiy Fedorovich or else Garri Fridrikhovich," came the reply on the receiver. I chose the latter, since I was not just phoning anyone but the "Wiedergeburt" society. In Russian this is "Vozrozhdeniye" [Rebirth]—the society of Soviet Germans. Officially there are about 2 million Soviet Germans in the country today, about one-half of whom live in Kazakhstan. Whereas in 1987 15,000 Germans emigrated to Germany, 100,000 did so in January-July this year. Half of those who are ready to make a permanent home abroad link their final decision to the activity of the "Wiedergeburt" society and its program for restoring German autonomy.

Last August was the month of a tragic anniversary for Germans in our country: It was 50 years since thousands of Volga German families were resettled in Siberia, Kazakhstan, and Altay. Now, after the adoption of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Law on Repressed Peoples and other measures taken by

the state, the social movement "Wiedergeburt" is gaining strength. However, "Wiedergeburt" Society Chairman Genrikh Grout, chairman of the Provisional Council for the Restoration of German Autonomy, visiting the editorial offices after a meeting with German Foreign Minister H.-D. Genscher, did not conceal his alarm:

"Genrikh, what did you talk about with the minister?"

"The meeting lasted about an hour and was conducted like a briefing—the minister was preparing for a meeting with Boris Yeltsin."

"As far as I know, the other day another organization of Soviet Germans was set up?"

"Yes. As is the custom with us, alongside a social movement which represents the specific interests of the population, some kind of quasi-official structure sanctioned by the state, existing at the state's expense and accordingly acting under its aegis, unfailingly emerges. The recently founded Union of USSR Germans is just such an organization to all intents and purposes subordinate to the CPSU and the Union government. This union operates a policy of creating cultural and national autonomy, which has nothing in common with restoring statehood and rehabilitating a whole people."

Local Affairs

Situation Remains Tense in Chechen-Ingush

TV Center Occupation Continues

OW1309180491 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1600 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] IF's [INTERFAX] correspondent describes the situation in the Chechen-Ingush Republic as "very difficult" on the eve of the parliamentary session opening on Sunday. Contrary to what the leaders of the National Chechen Congress had pledged, armed "national guards" still occupied on Friday morning the TV center in Groznyy, from which the visiting RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] State Secretary Gennadiy Burbulis intended to address the people. Mr. Burbulis is reported to have had another one-hour meeting with the Congress Executive Committee head Djokhar Dudayev, during which the parties managed to narrow their differences.

The RSFSR Media Minister Mikhail Poltoranin met on Thursday with the ex-head of the Chechen-Ingush Republic's Supreme Soviet, Doku Zavgayev, to urge him to tender his written resignation. No definite reply has so far been received from Mr. Zavgayev.

Public activists are fearing new excesses may occur during the Saturday funeral of the late Mayor of Grozny, Mr. Vitaliy Kutsenko who jumped out a window during a national guard attack on the parliament building, and later died in hospital.

Sides Consider Solutions

LD1309213791 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0815 GMT 13 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[Text] Groznyy, 13 Sep (TASS)—"The democratic content of the processes taking place in Chechen-Ingush can and must be taken into a legal channel. By our joint efforts we have already found real paths for this," said Gennadiy Burbulis, Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] secretary of state, in a conversation with a TASS correspondent. He is in Groznyy at the head of a Russian parliament special commission.

For three days intensive consultative meetings have been going on with representatives of the opposing sides: the republic's parliament, now practically disbanded but formally not having laid down its powers, and the executive committee of the National Congress of the Chechen People, around which all the democratic movements have united, which has taken on the parliament's functions. A classical situation has arisen in which official powers do not have any real strength, yet the victorious forces have not yet received legal authority. The fire is also being stoked by Doky Zavgayev, head of the republican parliament, who stubbornly resists recognizing his defeat and legalizing this fact. He maintains that he is continuing to control the situation in Chechen-Ingush and does not wish to resign.

If legal authority is received, then the executive committee agrees to allow the people's deputies to assemble for a session, but only in order to accept the the resignation of the chairman of the Supreme Soviet, to set a date for presidential elections, and to announce the dissolution of the parliament. The organization of the elections for the first president of the Chechen-Ingush republic will be undertaken by a commission specially created by the congress of the Chechen people, to be headed by USSR People's Deputy Lecha Magomadov.

'Power Crisis' Continues

LD1609201991 Moscow TASS in English 1826 GMT 16 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[Text] Groznyy September 16 TASS—Despite the shaped changes for the better, the power crisis continues to beset the Chechen-Ingush Republic. The executive committee of the National Congress of the Chechen People, headed by democratic forces who revolted in the republic, disagrees with the composition of the interim Supreme Council set up at the extraordinary session of the republican parliament, which announced itself to be disbanded.

The executive committee and the participants in the ongoing rally in the centre of Groznyy believe that the Supreme Soviet of the Chechen-Ingush Republic was dissolved by the Congress of the Chechen People back on September 1 and has thus no right to set up any bodies or include its representatives in them.

Participants in the rally categorically refuse to disperse until power in the republic is handed over to an interim structure recognised by them. This interim authority will run the republic until new elections are held. Part of the people attending the rally demanded that winter upper wear be supplied to them.

The special commission of the Russian parliament led by Russian State Secretary Gennadiy Burbulis carries on an intense search for a way out of the political impasse. The situation is complicated by the emerged tendencies leading to the disintegration of the Chechen-Ingush Republic at least into two parts. A congress of Ingush deputies of all levels was held in the city of Nazrani. About 600 participants, who represent this nationality, decided to form the Ingush Republic within the Russian Federation.

No one dares to recognise that this move has legal standing, but the report about it made at the rally in Groznyy compelled many people to return to the thesis about the need to legalise the sovereign Chechen Republic of Nokhchicheye announced last year.

The possibility of any armed conflicts after parliament announced itself disbanded seems to be ruled out now but the political situation remains very tense and unpredictable.

Interim Supreme Soviet Agreed Upon

OW1609203391 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1845 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On September 16 the executive committee of the Chechen Congress met in Groznyy, Chechen-Ingush, to discuss the socio-political situation emerging as a result of the dissolution of the republican parliament.

The parliament dissolved the republican Supreme Soviet at its Sunday session. The new election was set for November 17. It was also decided not to hold presidential talks in the republic.

The session ruled to set up an interim Supreme Soviet of Chechen-Ingush that will function until the next parliamentary election. There will be an advisory body attached to the council that will represent all public organisations and movements in the republic. The session was presided over by chairman of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet Ruslan Khasbulatov.

In the meantime, the rally on the central square of Groznyy continued on Monday. The ralliers reject the composition of the interim Supreme Soviet of Chechen-Ingush.

People Vote To Restore Statehoods

LD1609233591 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Report by correspondent N. Shebalkov; from the "TV Inform" newscast]

[Text] Checheno-Ingush tension continues. Problems remain: In my view, the republic currently resembles the self-same carriage from a Krylov tale to which a swan, a lobster, and a pike harnessed themselves. Do you remember? The situations are very similar. The Chechen people are voting to establish their own statehood; the Ingush people are voting to restore their own statehood. What will happen to the rest? After all, Russians, Armenians, and Nogays also live here and their percentage is relatively high. They, too, have their own ideas of either setting up their own republic—albeit minute—or joining Stavropol Kray. These problems were thoroughly discussed in Chervlennaya, a large Cossack village, where representatives of the Terskoye Cossacks, as well as of the Chechen, Nogay, and other peoples, arrived. A Russian Federation Supreme Soviet delegation participated in the dialogue:

[Begin N.M. Poltoranin, press and mass media minister, recording] We are also trying to find some areas where views coincide. We are listening to what we, in the Russian Government, must do to ensure that no single Russian outside Russia's borders suffers or feels vulnerable or hurt. This is problem number one. A woman asked us this poignant question: Tell me, where is my homeland? It is this question that we must address, both in the Supreme Soviet and in the government. [end recording]

Moscow Mayor Curtails Actions of Local Councils

LD1309222991 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 0800 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] At the order of the mayor of Moscow, Gavriil Popov, the activity of the local governing bodies, that is, the district councils of people's deputies, is being curtailed. Their bank accounts are frozen, their premises sealed, and their property taken over by the different services of the mayor's administration.

Representatives of the Moscow district councils have stated the actions of the mayor and his apparatus are a direct violation of the law of the Russian Federation on local self-governing bodies.

They have sent a collective protest to the USSR Supreme Soviet and to the city's prosecutor. A meeting is to be held in Moscow next Tuesday to protest against the actions of the city mayor.

Stock Exchange Chairman Publishes Appeal

LD1309214791 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 0800 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] The people of Chelyabinsk can read the appeal by Eduard Tenyakov, president of the Moscow Central Stock Exchange and chairman of the Exchange Council of the Chelyabinsk Universal Exchange, who is under arrest here, in the newspaper CHELYABINSKIY RABOCHIY." It says that officials of the Internal Affairs Ministry and of the procuracy of Chelyabinsk Oblast, through conjectures and false testimonies by criminals being held in custody, are trying to compromise through him all leaders of the new commercial structures.

Businessmen Reject 'Unfavorable' Tag for Moscow

OW1409184991 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1320 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The heads of several big USSR and Russia's commercial and stock exchange structures declared that they disagree with the decision of the "Moscow Convention of Entrepreneurs" to proclaim Moscow as a "zone unfavorable for enterprise". In a statement addressed to Russia's President Boris Yeltsin and Moscow's Mayor Gavriil Popov the heads of business companies condemned "the so-called Moscow Convention of Entrepreneurs" for inciting confrontation between businessmen and the leadership of Russia and Moscow.

According to the authors of the statement, such ultimatums are a result of personal ambitions of several leaders of commercial organizations which further destabilize the situation in the republic.

"In our view it's a duty of all sensible businessmen to search and find opportunities for cooperation with the government of Russia and Moscow, and refrain from succumbing to thoughtless calls for confrontation", the statement points out. Those who signed it include the leaders of the All-Russia Stock Exchange Center, "Russian Commercial Company", the newspaper "BIRZHEVIYE VEDOOSTI" (STOCK EXCHANGE NEWS), and others.

Moscow To Form National Guard Brigade

LD1309203591 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 2039 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Report by Ye. Kinshi; from the "Television News Service" program]

[Text] The militia is unable to ensure the protection of citizens' constitutional rights. This was the view taken by the Moscow City Soviet. Gavriil Popov issued an order concerning the establishment of a commission for the formation of a Moscow brigade of Russia's National Guard. Documents are now being prepared.

[Begin Shneyder recording, captioned as counsellor to the Moscow mayor] The National Guard is a public security brigade or detachment that is being formed, whose main task will be the defense of citizens' constitutional rights. [end recording]

The guard's intended strength ranges from 500 to 1,500 people. It will consist of three subunits, one of them being directly subordinated to two leaders at once—to Russia's president and to the mayor of Moscow. It is not clear how the guardsmen will act if two orders contradicting one another arrive simultaneously. For the time being, applications from volunteers are being accepted at the headquarters.

[Begin Shneyder recording] For the time being, there is no selection at all, of course. That is to say, all this will be done when the statute on the commission appears and when the medical commission starts working, which will have on its staff professional psychologists and doctors. Selection will be very strict. [end recording]

May God grant that the high moral qualities of these men do not allow them to go against the will of the people.

Sobchak Discusses Dangers of Dictatorship, Economy

AU1309122691 Prague CESKE A MORAVSKOSLEZSKE ZEMEDELSKE NOVINY in Czech 11 Sep 91 pp 1,2

[Interview with St. Petersburg City Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak by Jan Gabriel; place and date not given: "People Understand A Lot Now"]

[Text] Since last Friday [6 September], there is no Leningrad. It was renamed St. Petersburg. Its mayor, Anatoliy Sobchak, made a slip of the tongue only once when he talked with the CESKE A MORAVSKOSLEZSKE ZEMEDELSKE NOVINY reporter.

[Gabriel] Is there a danger that dictatorship may return to the USSR?

[Sobchak] Contrary to former Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze, I believe that the threat of dictatorship still exists. There are still a lot of people who would like to turn back the clock, in particular, generals and former party and state officials. However, they realize that people do not accept their ideology any more. On 20 August people took to the streets. Hundreds of thousands of people participated in demonstrations—not to rebel and demand improvement of their living conditions, but to protect the legal government and the law. Six years have passed since the beginning of perestroyka and, in the meantime, we have gotten used to free information and speaking openly about everything. The young generation would rather die on the barricades than turn the clock back. This is why I believe that the current process is irreversible. People understand a lot now.

[Gabriel] Many people say that the coming winter will be decisive for democracy. Will democracy survive the winter economically....

[Sobchak] I would not put it that categorically. The winter will not pose such a great danger as we believe. However, I am afraid that if we are unable to resolve the economic crisis and the deterioration of living conditions, there is a danger—not from communists—that national socialism will awake. There is a real danger of fascism. The case of the Weimar Republic could repeat itself. This is why we must resolve the economic crisis very quickly. As far as Russia is concerned, apart from economic cooperation with individual republics, I am pushing for close economic contacts, for instance with Czechoslovakia, Poland, and other partners from the former Eastern socialist block. In contrast with the past—when these contacts were controlled from the center—we have to establish them on different principles. For example, we hear that unemployment is on the rise in Czechoslovakia. We do not have this problem. This problem will not exist in our country for a long time to come, since we are working on large projects. For example, the countryside is becoming depopulated. There are millions of hectares of good-quality land lying fallow. No one cultivates it. We will have to cultivate it. We will have to build new, modern roads. We will have to do a lot of other work. We will not have enough workers. To put it simply, we will have to import them. Or, another example. You have a surplus of food, we have a shortage. I am personally interested in purchasing food for St. Petersburg and the surrounding areas. By the way, I have spoken about this with Minister Dienstbier.

[Gabriel] Anatoliy Sobchak, whose grandmother is Czech by origin, has never been to the CSFR.

[Sobchak] I am 52 years old, but I have never been beyond the USSR borders. However, I am getting ready for a trip to Prague, maybe even this year. I have received an invitation from the mayor of Prague....

St. Petersburg Vice Mayor Opposes City Guard

OW1309232791 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1045 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] St. Petersburg Vice Mayor and spokesman of the Russian president for matters of defense Vyacheslav Shcherbakov described the activities to form a national guard in St. Petersburg as "being in contravention of the Constitution and the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] law on political parties and public organizations." The vice mayor declared that the right to form the guard "belongs only to the authorized bodies of state government and administration." He explained his position in a telephone message made known Thursday among the heads of district governing councils in St. Petersburg.

Shcherbakov suggests in this connection that required measures should be taken to prevent the formation of military or para-military groupings not provided for by the Russian Constitution.

Lenbank Receives Status of Central Bank

OW1309143491 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0300 GMT 13 Sep 91

[From "Banking, Finance"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] By decision of municipal authorities, Lenbank, the biggest bank in St. Petersburg (formerly Leningrad) with a capital base of 100 million rubles, received the status of central bank in the free economic zone [FEZ] being established in St. Petersburg and Vyborg, a Baltic port on the Soviet-Finnish border. Under the ruling of St. Petersburg's City Hall, Lenbank is authorized to coordinate all financial operations connected with the establishment of FEZ's in the region.

An open-end shareholder company established by 25 biggest state enterprises and agencies in Leninrad Region, Lenvest is licensed to conduct foreign-exchange operations. It has assets in excess of 3.5 billion rubles.

Tension Aggravates Crime in Dagestan Districts

OW1309180891 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1600 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The situation in the village of Leninaul in Dagestan's Kazbekov District, where an Avar-Chechen conflict flared up over the allotment of land a few days ago, has remained tension-laden.

After the Dagestan Supreme Soviet Presidium imposed a state of emergency on the district, most of the Avar protesters have left the central square in Leninaul, but 7,000 Chechens are still there.

On Thursday, policemen prevented a group of nearly 400 more Chechens from entering the village.

After some 500 policemen arrived in the Kazbekov District from other parts of Dagestan, the activity of criminal elements in the cities of Makhachkala and Khasavyurt, as well as in the Akushin and Tsumaghin Districts immediately made itself felt, of which the republican leadership has already been informed.

Dismantling of October Revolution Monument Begins

OW1409000391 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1045 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On September 12 work started on dismantling a monument in honour of the 1917 October Revolution on Kiev's central Independence Square. The decision to

have the monument toppled had been taken by the Kiev Council of People's Deputies. The monument had been erected in honour of the 60th anniversary of the socialist revolution in 1977. The construction cost 1.2 mn. Rbs., and the dismantling will set the city back another 0.675 mn. Rbs. On Thursday the four figures, symbols of the revolutionary masses, surrounding the figure of Lenin, were torn down, but the Lenin himself will be more of a problem. The difficulty is that the Lenin can only be dislodged by an explosion, but the metro line running underneath the monument would be damaged by the burst, say experts.

Komi Delegates Decide To Form Roundtable

LD1309200191 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0100 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Report by Correspondent Yevgeniy Kuznetsov from Syktyvkar]

[Text] The political discussion in Komi Soviet Socialist Republic [SSR], which flared up after the attempt to revive the power of true Leninists in Moscow, has taken a new turn. A gathering of representatives of various political forces has taken place in Syktyvkar. It was decided to form a roundtable for the republic. This was a unanimous decision made by delegates from the Democratic Russia Movement, national, workers' and trade union movements, representatives of the local emerging bourgeoisie, USSR people's deputies and members of the local interregional group, a number of Russian deputies, and members of the presidium of the republican parliament who resigned in protest against the actions of authorities in Komi during the putsch.

All political forces, including the most polar ones, not excluding the communists of Russia, who have a conplaints and who intend to start everything anew, are invited to take part in the roundtable. However, the initiators of the Komi roundtable believe unequivocally that the current Supreme Soviet and the Council of Ministers of Komi SSR must leave the political arena since, in their view, they completely compromised themselves during the communist putsch. At the same time, the initiators of the roundtable think that the structure of power itself should be fully reformed. Its desovietization is quite possible. The Komi SSR Constitution should also be radically changed.

Inefficiency Hampers Food Distribution in Maritime

OW1309202991 Moscow Central Television First Program and Orbita Networks in Russian 0930 GMT 5 Sep 91

[Report by O. Padenko; from the "TV Inform" program]

[Text] A good harvest ripened in the fields of the Maritime Kray but it reaches the consumer only after many difficulties.

[Padenko] Here, look at this paradox—these cucumbers return to the field of the Artem sovkhoz [state farm], which they left to be sold in Vladivostok only a few hours before. The shops would not take them. The Chinese workers who have helped us to raise vegetables, potatoes and melons are extremely surprised by this situation, wherein the trading is turned upside down. [video shows interview with N.I. Bulgakov, director of Artem sovkhoz]

[Begin N.I. Bulgakov, director of Artem sovkhoz, recording] Today, we have people to gather the harvest; we have transportation—the rayon executive committee has assisted us with transportation by allocating 60 additional vehicles for hauling vegetables to Vladivostok. But as you see, the trucks stand idle; the drivers refuse to load them since today the shops would not take the cucumbers. [end recording]

[Padenko] Yes, they would not take them, although the price, by necessity, is symbolic—20 or 25 kopeks for a kilogram. Can you imagine this? One might call it a handout. I have no doubt that the same fate awaits other vegetables mentioned by the director. By the way, during the 15 years of running the farm he was reprimanded 25 times. For what? For all of this, for someone else's irresponsibility. He would not follow directions in order to save the harvest and people's labor; he would not deliver cucumbers to someone if they did not take tomatoes, too. He would hire schoolchildren and pay them, not later but right away. He would get up and leave the soulless submission of the Artem City Soviet Executive Committee for the rural Ussuriskiy Rayon. He would reduce prices to try to prevent the harvest from rotting. In short, he takes chances, continuously fighting the bureaucracies of the Agricultural Union and the City Trade Organization for Trade in Food Products. Can you believe that this is the situation almost everywhere in the Maritime Kray? They can grow, harvest, and transport, but there is nowhere to sell. The problem is that nobody is in control of trade here.

Novgorod Selects New Administrative Form

LD1309195491 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0200 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] It has been announced at a session of the Novgorod Soviet of People's Deputies that the development of self-government in the town will take an independent path from now on. There will be no elections by the people for a mayor. The town administration will be headed by a administrator [posadnik], as it was during the feudal Novgorod Republic. It was decided to set up town council [uprava] instead of the mayor's office. Nikolay Grazhdankin, current chairman of the oblast soviet, is expected to become the first administrator in Novgorod.

Sakhalin Sells Property to Private Sector

OW1309233491 Moscow Central Television First Program and Orbita Networks in Russian 0930 GMT 9 Sep 91

[Report by V. Korotkikh; from the "TV Inform" newscast]

[Text] The Sakhalin Oblast Executive Committee uses the privileges of being a free economic zone, and actively carries out privatization of trade facilities and municipal services. The process has entered a new phase. Our correspondent describes this.

[Korotkikh] The sale has been going on for three months now. More than 300 facilities have been sold. Committees of municipal property carried out the buying and selling operations, and the prices were determined by special commissions.

It came as a surprise that there were more buyers interested in the facilities than was expected, and so it was decided to hitch the Sakhalin Commodity Exchange to the privatization.

[Begin recording] [Korotkikh] Mikhail Igoryevich, do you gain anything from the sale of the trade facilities and municipal services?

[M.I. Yegorov, president of Sakhalin Commodity Exchange] An auction selling the municipal property of the Yuzhno Sakhalinsk City Council was carried out today. Two facilities were sold—city bathhouse No. 3 and food store No. 6. What was the city counting on when it released these two facilities for sale and privatization? It was counting on these facilities being bought by business people who, without changing the nature of the enterprise for three years—these are the conditions of privatization—will attend to these businesses as their own, will try to invest not only money, but also their heart, knowledge, and ability, and maybe some kind of business instinct, thus upgrading these enterprises. Besides, the city executive committee added some additional funds for its, let us say, not too fat a budget, since the difference between the auction starting price and the real price arrived at during the auction will be included in the city's budget.

[Korotkikh] The experiment of carrying out privatization through the exchange was a success. A series of facilities to be sold for convertible currency at an auction has been marked down. A lot of applications arrived, mostly from joint enterprises. [end recording]

South Ossetia Appeals for Reunification

LD1409023891 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 1630 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Text] At a news conference held in Moscow today, Artem Artemov and Ilya Konstantinov, Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] people's deputies, who represent the Russian Christian Democratic Movement, appealed on behalf of the extraordinary session of the soviet of people's deputies of the South Ossetian Autonomous Oblast. In the appeal the South Ossetia Soviet asks the RSFSR Supreme Soviet to examine the issue of the reunification of South Ossetia with Russia. The deputies expressed the hope that this question would be examined at the session of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet that starts on 19 September.

Yakutsk Leaders Discuss Structural Changes

OW1409174591 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1500 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At their conference held on Saturday the leaders of Yakutiyan regional and urban government bodies discussed the ways to speed up economic and land reform in the republic and make the necessary changes in the structure of government and management.

Opening the conference, the chairman of Yakutiya's parliament Mikhail Nikolayev said that initiative, particularly in enterprise, stems from below and rarely gets support from the government bodies. In this connection those present pointed to the ineffectiveness of the Soviet form of government and management. Virtually all participants in the conference backed the suggestion of the parliament's presidium that presidency should be introduced in Yakutiya. Apart from strengthening the executive authority, said Prime Minister Klement Ivanov, the presidency will become one more argument against the Russian president's being represented by a special administrator in the republic. Those present were in favor of electing Yakutiya's president at a congress of local people's deputies.

The expediency of introducing the post of president will be considered at the congress of people's deputies to be held on October 1-10.

Belorussia

People's Front Urges Consolidation of Forces

PM1609144191 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 14 Sep 91 First Edition p 2

[Report by Colonel P. Chernenko: "Call for Consolidation of Forces"]

[Text] Minsk—At a routine session of its council [seym] the "Adrazheniye" ["Revival"] Belorussian People's Front has adopted an appeal to the republic's communists. The appeal states that from its inception, the Belorussian People's Front has always stood for unity and cooperation between representatives of all forces—irrespective of party affilation—fighting against the totalitarian system, and in favor of democracy and the national revival of Belorussia.

The People's Front called on former communists to place their strength and intelligence on the altar of the republic, and to be actively involved in the building of a new democratic society and the revival of the Belorussian language and culture. The unity of all citizens is needed as never before, the document stresses, for the defense of Belorussian independence. However difficult and tragic the past may have been, it must not separate the Belorussian people.

Moldova

RSFSR Supreme Soviet Group Continues Visit

AU1609180691 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1441 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 16/9/1991—The "ROMPRES" correspondent to Chisinau [Kishinev] cabled that the three-day visit to the Republic of Moldova of the delegation of deputies of the Russian Federation, having an extremely busy program, is part of the actions intended to ease tension in the southern part of the Republic, to seek common ways of expression for the Russophone population.

The Treaty of Friendship between the Republic of Moldova and the Russian Federation, signed in Moscow, in the autumn of 1990, by Presidents Yeltsin and Snegur, was ratified in October 1990 by the parliament of Moldova. The legislative forum of Russia will assemble on 17 September 1991 and will examine, as it seems, equally the issue of the ratification by the Russian Federation of this document, particularly important for the initiation of new relations between two independent and sovereign states. The documents of ratification are going to be exchanged in Chisinau, during Boris Yeltsin's visit.

After talks conducted in Chisinau, the deputies of Russia went to the south of the republic, where they will have meetings at Tiraspol, Tighina [Bendery] and Dubosarry. During talks, it was stressed first of all that confidence was essential as a prerequisite to seeking solutions to inter-ethnic disputes and other problems.

The proposal was extended that the treaty be accompanied by a number of additional protocols on repatriation. On the basis of a protocol referring to this matter, the two parties assume obligations towards people wanting to repatriate.

Meets With Snegur

AU1609180391 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1331 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Chisinau [Kishinev] ROMPRES 16/9/1991—Mircha Snegur, president of the Republic of Moldova, had an interview with a working group of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation led by Sergey Krasavchenko, member of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation, chairman of the Commission for Economic Reform and Privatization, now in Moldova upon an invitation extended by the leadership of the republic, a communique of the press service of the Republic of Moldova, released by "MOLDOVA PRES" news agency, shows.

"This is not the only delegation to which we opened the gates of independent Moldova," President Snegur said. "On the basis of the declaration of independence, in which pride of place is given to the observance of human rights, the Republic of Moldova invited and is ready to receive all expert groups willing to check the situation in that area."

The president of the republic said Moldova was faithful to democracy and that the political treaty signed with Russia could be improved as far as the rights of the Russians living in the Republic of Moldova are concerned or complemented with additional accords.

The group visiting the Republic of Moldova will meet the Russian-speaking population of Chisinau [Kishinev] and of the towns of the so-called Dnestrian republic. President Mircha Snegur said that meetings were more than necessary with the Moldovans in the towns where elements hostile to the independence of the republic settled so that the pressure might be known to which the inhabitants are subjected by people whose rights were allegedly endangered.

Urged To Mediate in Dnestr

OW1609203791 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1845 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A delegation of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet headed by the deputy Sergey Krasavchenko spent the entire Monday in the Dnestr region. According to IF [INTERFAX], at their meeting with the residents of Tiraspol, representatives of the committee of the women picketing the

railways declared their determination to continue picketing until their demands are fully met. A deputy of the city council Galina Andreeva urged the women to arm themselves.

The meeting passed an appeal to the Russian parliament to act as a go-between in the dispute between the Dnestr region and Kishinev and in an effort to have a number of peoples deputies of the region, arrested on charges of having supported the coup of August 19-21, freed. The appeal also states the need to have RSFSR representative offices opened in Tiraspol "to defend the interests of the Russian- speaking population."

At a meeting with the deputies of the Bendery City Council, Sergey Krasavchenko suggested organizing a meeting between representatives of the Dnestr republic and Moldova. He guaranteed security for the Dnestr delegation.

Dnestr Supreme Soviet Head Discusses Situation

LD1609235291 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 16 Sep 91

[From the "TV Inform" newscast]

[Excerpt] Moldovan President Mircha Snegur said he is ready to start negotiations with Russia on ensuring the rights of Russians and other ethnic minorities in Moldova. Snegur announced this at a meeting with a group of Russian legislators. The Moldovan president added that the republic is prepared to receive any group of experts who would like to check how the republic's declaration of independence is being carried out with regard to human rights observation:

[Begin recording] [G.S. Marakutsa, Dnestr republic Supreme Soviet chairman] The events that are taking place in Moldova illustrate a difference in principle between the leadership of the Republic of Moldova and the people and the leadership of the republic of Dnestr. Moldova is trying to leave the USSR by any means, and the people of Pridnestrovye and its leadership do not want this to happen. They link it with the fact that Pridnestrovye has never existed outside the Russian state; historically it has always been linked with the Ukraine and Russia. This is one issue. The second issue is about what has actually complicated the situation of late. The extreme unwillingness of the people and leadership of the Dnestr republic is prompting Moldova to try to apply force in tackling these issues. You are well aware of the latest events, some deputies have been arrested at night, and various detachments armed with submachine guns have been operating. In response to this, women have blocked the railway and demanded that the deputies be set free. Unfortunately, the blockade harms both the Moldovan Republic and our republic. We hope that...[changes thought] The Moldovan prime minister and the republican president have participated in talks during which they promised to resolve this issue, by releasing the deputies and unblocking the railways later.

[Correspondent Sokirke] Much is being said about Pridnestrovye today. People talk about it as the illegally proclaimed republic, as the hot spot of our country, and, unfortunately, very often one can hear opinions of people who are completely incompetent in this issue. Let us hear the opinion of a competent person.

[I.I. Buga, doctor of history , deputy chairman of the commission on human rights of the Moldovan Supreme Soviet] I think that what is taking place across the Dnestr is a specific manifestation of decay of Stalin's empire and communist utopia. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Kishinev Urged To Release Dnestr Leaders

PM1609161191 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 13 Sep 91 p 1

[Article by A. Miklus: "Left Bank. But Who Is the Right Bank? The Dnestr Republic Is Like a Well-Dried Haystack: Take a Match and It Will Flare Up"]

[Text] For the second week in a row, women are blocking the railroads into Kishinev. The picket has been moved from Tiraspol to Bendery. Around-the-clock watches have been organized and fuel, food, and warm clothing are being brought in. Groups from Rybnitsa and Dubossary have come to help. Men and children are being driven away from the railroads. The ad hoc women's council is coordinating everything.

Rallies have been held in many cities in the Dnestr republic in support of the pickets. At the same time, another railroad branch line in the Beltsy region has been blocked by supporters of the Gagauz republic.

The situation that has developed around the arrested leaders of the Dnestr republic is no longer a local conflict between two political forces. In jailing deputies who have a right to immunity, Kishinev has once again confirmed its failure to recognize the Dnestr republic, thus disregarding the opinion of several hundreds of thousands of voters. In defending their deputies, the pickets are also defending themselves and their rights.

It is now clear that the Moldovan leadership wants to quietly deprive the recalcitrant republic of leadership under cover of reprisals against the State Committee for the State of Emergency.

Kishinev evidently had some reason for its unwillingness, yet again, to resolve by parliamentary means a conflict that has now been smoldering for two years. Whereas previously the Dnestr republic could have cried on the Kremlin's, Moscow's, or Kiev's shoulder, today they are not in the mood. Tiraspol has been left on its own to face Kishinev. Neither side has anywhere to go. The boiling point has been reached and there are two options: Add a few logs so that the fire reaches every corner, or quietly release the pressure.

"We are having difficulty in keeping the people's level of armament within controllable limits," Valeriy Litskay, political adviser to the chairman of the Dnestr republic, acknowledged.

"Everything is moving toward an armed clash," the Tiraspol workers' committee confirmed.

Meanwhile Kishinev hurriedly adopted one decree after another last week: On setting up its own armed forces, the withdrawal of the Soviet Army and internal troops, the state border, and subordinating customs establishments to the republic government. On Sunday, a customs post was established near Tiraspol, on the border with the Ukraine. The USSR citizen's passport has been declared invalid. Moldovan citizenship is being introduced, along with residence permits and temporary residence permits. Most of the Dnestr republic's inhabitants cannot claim the status of full-fledged citizen of the republic.

The other side is taking retaliatory steps. They have announced the formation of their own republican guard which is to begin carrying out its duties. As of this date all law-enforcement organs stationed on the territory of the Dnestr Moldavian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] are to fall under the jurisdiction of the Dnestr Supreme Soviet and government.

A gun has been hung on the wall and, according to the laws of drama, it is bound to fire.

...Regrettably, the situation in Moldova does not conform to the usual format of:

a) confrontation between one nation and another;

b) confrontation between the indigenous population and "newcomers."

There is no confrontation in the Dnestr republic between the Moldavians and Russians (or Russian speakers). Like it or not, there is none. Ukrainians, Moldovans, Russians, and Jews have lived here together for hundreds of centuries now. They have made friends with one another and intermarried. You can no longer tell who is "indigenous" and who has been "integrated." The paradox is that there are many Moldovans in the leadership of the Dnestr republic and the "rebel" city soviets opposing the capital's authority. Two of the three young men who died on that tragic night in Dubossary defending their republic's independence were Moldovans. Russians, Jews, Moldovans, and Ukrainians are picketing side by side, singing and dancing the lambada.

Two national ideas, two economic and political orientations are now at odds in Moldova, diametrically opposed—ideologically and geographically. The Kishinev government is quite sincere in directing its attention toward Romania. Hence the switch to the Roman alphabet, the introduction of Romanian history in schools, and the mandatory conversation in Moldovan before entry to a higher educational establishment.

On the other bank, you have Tiraspol's desire to continue to live and speak in Ukrainian, Russian, Moldavian (there are the three state languages in the Dnestr republic) and direct its attention toward the Ukraine and Russia in its economic and cultural ties.

Most of the Dnestr republic's inhabitants, and the referendum showed this, simply do not want to change their usual lifestyle, traditions, and affections. Hence, incidentally, their devotion to socialism and the former Moldovan flag, the bicolor—a feeling that is not due to alleged "communization."

There is another strictly economic reason, I think. Moldova's budget deficit today totals roughly 3 billion rubles. The left bank, like the meat in a hamburger, is sandwiched between the Ukraine and Moldova—a tasty morsel. The most developed industry is to be found there. With 11 percent of the population they produce 35 percent of the gross national product. The Dnestr republic is prepared for the market: There are commodity exchanges, old enterprises have been demothballed, and new ones are being built. Modern economic structures have developed here. Needless to say, Kishinev does not want to lose its influence over this region.

In the last two years not one of the real political forces in the Union has tried to grasp the crux of what is happening and assess the danger of developing conflict.

"The center has taken virtually no interest in us. It only needed us for its own political games," V. Zagryadskiy, deputy chairman of the Dnestr Supreme Soviet, said. "By exploiting us, it put pressure on Moldova, saying: You will have problems with all these republics until you sign the Union Treaty..."

Hence the talk of the left bank government's being a puppet regime. Hence Kishinev's desire to pull out the embedded splinter once and for all, even if blood is shed.

There has not been a single session of the union legislature or the Moldovan legislature that has examined the situation in the Dnestr republic in earnest. There has not even been any investigation into the armed conflict in Dubossary, which resulted in three new graves appearing in the city center.

It is not enough that the strong-arm pressure on Tiraspol is continuing. Around two weeks ago, for instance, the order came to withdraw all cash from banks on the left bank and bring it to Kishinev.

I thought that the chain of events in the capital of the Dnestr republic strange on the eve of the republic's congress. First, there was a fire in a warehouse at the wine and cognac plant filled with drums containing thousands of liters of spirit—a fire caused by "external sources." Then a transformer substation with five levels of protection failed. Then there was a fire at the "Moldavizolit" plant and an accident at the baby food cannery. Of course, all these incidents, such as the attempt reported by Kishinev to blow up a militia station, should

not be ascribed to official structures. But are there really not enough fools, rabble-rousers, and rascals in our troubled times who gain from the deteriorating situation?

I do not think that Moldova will succeed in resolving its problems by itself. No matter what, Russia and the Ukraine will be drawn into the confrontation—indeed, they have already been drawn into it. The Russian Supreme Soviet has recognized Baltic independence, having obtained in advance guarantees of the rights of Russians living in Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia; it expects the same guarantees from Moldova. Kishinev has not yet had its say, and the treaty on cooperation signed by Snegur and Yeltsin has not been ratified.

Kiev's position is equally ambiguous. The Moldovan leadership has still not given up its territorial claims on Bessarabia and the south of Odessa Oblast. Kiev subscribes to the opinion that the borders should not be recarved. This fundamental question has not prevented further progress in discussing relations between the two sovereign republics. The conflict has deteriorated still further now. Following Snegur's decrees on troop withdrawal, units under the direct jurisdiction of the Ukrainian Ministry of Internal Affairs have been stationed near Kishinev. In effect, they are now occupation troops. Where are they to be taken? To the Ukraine, yet barracks, housing, and military cantonments are needed. In Odessa Military District alone there are 12,500 officers without housing today. Kishinev has still not begun talking about compensation. Will it have anything to pay after the treaty with Russia whereby petroleum prices are calculated on the basis of world indicators?

If an armed conflict begins in the Dnestr republic due to this situation, hundreds of thousands of refugees will move to the Ukraine—to Odessa and Vinnitsa Oblasts (there are roughly 400,000 Ukrainians now living in the Dnestr republic). There will only be one thing left for Kiev to do: immediately form a border zone of almost 500 km.

There is still a chance and a foundation, however, for agreements between Kishinev, Tiraspol, and Komrat. Both the pickets and the leaders of the Dnestr and Gagauz republics think so.

"No borders must be changed," V. Zagryadskiy assured us. "We are willing to cooperate and establish political and economic relations with Kishinev. It is no coincidence that we have left the word 'Moldavian' in the republic's name."

At present there can be only one first step in the talks: the immediate release of those who have been arrested and the unblocking of the railroads.

Gorbachev Accused of 'Betraying' CPSU

OW1609181291 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1500 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The former First Secretary of the Central Committee of the former Moldovan Communist Party Grigoriy Yeremey accused Mikhail Gorbachev of "betraying" the CPSU. In an interview with the weekly "FAKEL" (Kishinev) he emphasised the fact that after the putsch Gorbachev had been inactive and evading work. "Now he works for Yeltsin and Yakovlev," G. Yeremey replied. His own view is that if logic had prevailed, then Gorbachev should have retired from his position as president of the country.

Georgia

Pro-, Anti-Gamsakhurdia Demonstrations Continue

[Editorial Report] Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Domestic in Georgian at 0700 GMT on 15 September, in its scheduled newscast, carries a two-minute report on the "current sociopolitical situation in Tbilisi." Reception is poor.

The report begins by stating that "in Tbilisi, Rustaveli Prospect continues to be blocked by barricades," and that "various political organizations and parties are continuing to hold rallies."

It says that "a rally in support of the president was held by women in front of the government building. The speakers supported the position of the president and the government and condemned the actions of the political parties being held on the other side of the barricades." It then points out that "there has to be a halt to all manner of rallies and public speeches both in the capital of Georgia and elsewhere to bring about a (?speedy) stabilization of the situation." It continues by stating that "the speakers called upon the Georgian women to make every effort to prevent bloodshed between brothers."

The report then states that "in the places where barricades have been erected, the National Democratic Party and the National Independence Party are continuing their rallies at which speakers are demanding the resignation of the Georgian president and the holding of new parliamentary elections."

It then points out that "it is outrageous that Rustaveli Prospect, in the not too distant past" witnessed "the rise of the Georgian national-liberation movement and Georgian unity has been transformed into an arena of bloodshed and retribution." It then gives as an example "a fight that broke out next to the Georgian Opera and National Ballet building in the course of which Georgian youths were beating one another so mercilessly" that it resulted in people "lying unconscious on the ground" and "efforts to revive them proved in vain."

The report concludes by saying that "despite the fact that addresses to various political parties and organizations have been broadcast on the news (?at different times) stating that Georgian TV is ready to give the (?necessary) airtime to speakers representing all political views, protest actions and rallies are continuing in front of the Georgian State TV and Radio Broadcasting Department building at which one group of the department's employees are demanding the resignation of the heads of the Georgian TV and radio department and the protection of journalists' rights."

30,000 Demand Resignation

OW1609201191 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1845 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A 30,000-strong Monday opposition rally in Tbilisi demanded the resignation of Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia, the abolition of the presidency in the republic and new parliamentary elections.

All these demands were incorporated in the resolution of the rally. After the rally ended, its participants headed for the Government House where there was another rally, one in support of the president that was protected by police cordons.

Speaking at the support rally, Chairman of the Georgian Supreme Soviet Akaki Asatiani recognized that the situation in the city was not normal and blamed that on the opposition. But, said he, the Supreme Soviet and the president were ready for a dialogue in case they were presented with well-grounded acceptable demand.

The police prevented a confrontation between the president's supporters and his enemies.

There were rallies in support of the opposition in other Georgian cities as well. The biggest one was in Batumi on Monday. Its participants demanded the resignation of the president's "yes-man", chairman of the Adzharian Supreme Soviet Aslan Abashidze.

Rallies Reflect Divergent Positions

LD1609203391 Moscow TASS in English 1930 GMT 16 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondents Albert Kochetkov and Aleksandr Kharchenko]

[Text] Tbilisi September 16 TASS—Two rallies reflecting diametrically opposite political positions of the Georgian public were held here today.

Seeking to achieve one goal—the republic's full independence—opponents disagree over ways to attain it. While Supporters of the Round Table, a ruling political bloc, side with President Zviad Gamsakhurdia in that Georgia should first gain freedom and then form democratic institutes, the opposition insists on the other way round. The first accused Democratic Opposition of destructive actions which are prodding the people towards a civil war. The second keep insisting on the immediate resignation of the president and dissolution of the Georgian parliament.

After the rally organised by the opposition ended, its participants headed in a column of thousands of people to the House of the Government chanting "Ceausescu" and carrying posters reading "Down with Gamsakhurdia's dictatorship". No one knows what could be the finale of this march to the place where a rally in support of the president was held if more sensible oppositionists failed to stop the marchers and turn them into an opposite direction.

The conflict in Georgia is escalating: More barricades and picketers are seen in Tbilisi, activities to protest or

support some or other side are held round-the-clock and rallies became a feature of every-day-life in the city.

Supporters, Opponents Face Off

AU1609185991 Paris AFP in English 1831 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Tbilisi, Georgia, Sept 16 (AFP)—Some 20,000 opponents of President Zviad Gamsakhurdia of Georgia called for his resignation at a rally here Monday as 8,000 supporters of the nationalist leader held a counter-demonstration nearby. The anti-Gamsakhurdia rally saw the emergence of former Georgian Prime Minister Tengiz Sigua as a potential leader of the opposition. Speaking in public for the first time since his resignation on the night before last month's failed Soviet coup, Sigua told the demonstrators that Gamsakhurdia had colluded with coup leaders. He said that on the night of August 18, three of Gamsakhurdia's associates met with Soviet Vice President Gennadiy Yanayev, one of the coup leaders, and promised that the Georgian Government would cooperate with the hardliners who seized power the next day. "The international community does not recognize our independence because while Armenia, Azerbaijan and Russia pass over to a market economy, we remain socialist," declared Sigua.

The former premier was loudly applauded as he left the rally under the protection of 30 breakaway members of the Georgian National Guard, who stood guard in front of the podium with automatic weapons during the speech. Following Sigua's address, the demonstrators marched towards the parliament where Gamsakhurdia supporters were holding a counter- demonstration. A row of buses and three rows of police kept the two groups apart until the end of the pro-Gamsakhurdia rally. No incidents were reported.

In a speech to his supporters, Gamsakhurdia complained that "many of those who were named to high posts by the president are betraying him today," in an apparent reference to Sigua. Appearing pale and tense, he denied the allegations of collusion with coup leaders, and called for the reestablishment of law and order.

In addition to Sigua and former Georgian Foreign Minister Giorigiy Khoshtaria, the opposition has been joined by prominent intellectuals and breakaway deputies from Gamsakhurdia's own Round Table parliamentary group. The Georgian nationalist, who won by a landslide in democratic elections last spring, has come under increasing fire over the last few weeks. Critics have charged him with using autocratic methods to stifle dissent.

Leaders of the main opposition parties have set aside disputes to organize protests against the president along Tbilisi's main avenue over the last few weeks. Dissidents in the Round Table group have not taken part in the rallies, however, saying they would express their protest via parliamentary votes.

Georgia unilaterally declared independence in April and Gamsakhurdia has rejected offers by the new Moscow leadership to support an economic agreement governing relations between the center and the republics.

Authorities Arrest Opposition Party Leader

LD1609215291 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 16 Sep 91

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] (Georgiy Zumbadze), a National Democratic Party of Georgia Main Committee spokesman, just reported to us by telephone that Georgiy Chanturiya, chairman of this opposition party, tried to fly to Moscow this evening to hold a news conference tomorrow for Soviet and foreign journalists. However, the aircraft returned to Tbilisi airport. Georgiy Chanturiya and (Irina Tereshvili) and (Vakhtan Dlakhadze), members of the Main Committee of their party, were arrested on arrival. By all accounts, we can expect after this a further exacerbation of the Georgian situation.

15 Sep Republic Supreme Council Session Detailed

AU1609100591 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0200 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] As we informed you, yesterday the first meeting of the second session of the Republic of Georgia Supreme Council of the first convocation began its work.

Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia participated in the work of the session.

The session was opened by Batoni [Georgian polite form of address] Akaki Asatiani, chairman of the Republic of Georgia Supreme Council.

At the morning session, following the second registration of deputies, it was established that, out of 176 deputies who were eligible to vote, there were 168 present.

At the session, a certain number of deputies raised the question of whether the session should be shown live on TV. This gave rise to sharp debate and a variety of opinions were expressed. The proposal was put to the vote. Seventy-two deputies were in favor of the session being shown live on TV, 78 opposed the proposal, and there were 18 abstentions. Therefore, the question of the screening of the session on TV was removed from the agenda.

After the break, the session resumed its work.

A statement was made on behalf of the Merab Kostava Society deputies that they were leaving today's meeting of the session.

Gamsakhurdia delivered a speech to the session. He called upon parliament to engage in constructive work. He stated that it was necessary to observe the laws and decisions of the supreme authority that had been elected by the people. The president said that the seriousness of

the situation calls for the resolution of all problems through dialogue and that all parliamentary factions and the opposition must participate in this.

Then, Nodar Natadze [chairman of the Popular Front and the parliamentary opposition faction "Democratic Center"], on behalf of the parliamentary faction, and Tedo Paatashvili, chairman of the Supreme Council Commission for Foreign Affairs, on behalf of one group of deputies, stated that they were leaving today's meeting of the session. One of the principal reasons given for this was that there was not going to be live TV coverage. Other arguments were also advanced. Therefore, in total, 33 deputies left the hall.

The question was raised of deferring the session. However, this proposal was rejected by a majority of votes.

Then, the deputies began discussion of the questions on the agenda.

A resolution was adopted on the inclusion of the Republic of Georgia in the Helsinki CSCE Final Acts and the Vienna CSCE Final Documents.

Resolutions were adopted on the status of the USSR Armed Forces deployed on the territory of the Republic of Georgia and on the status of enterprises, establishments, and organizations subordinate to the Union and Union republics located on the territory of the Republic of Georgia.

Laws were also adopted on the Republic of Georgia customs and on the Republic of Georgia air space.

Other questions were discussed and appropriate decisions were adopted.

At the evening session, the question of creating a Supreme Council commission to investigate the incident that occured on 2 September 1991 in Tbilisi was discussed. Deputies Maya Natadze, Tamaz Gamkhralidze, Gaioz (?Korgadze), Nugzar Mololodinashvili [chairman of the Supreme Council Commission for Legislation and Upholding the Law], Teimuraz Koridze [chairman of the Supreme Council Commission for Culture, Education, and Science], and Vakhtang Chitava gave their views on this subject. Batoni Vakhtang Razmadze, the republic's procurator, informed the deputies of how the investigation into the stated fact was progressing.

President Zviad Gamsakhurdia delivered the final speech.

The session condemned the clashes between the militia and the participants of the [2 September] rally and adopted a decision to create, in the near future, a commission made up of Supreme Council deputies involving the participation of representatives of all registered political parties and representatives of the public.

With this, the first meeting of the second session of the Supreme Council of the first convocation ended its work.

Media Coverage, Agenda Debated

AU1609173591 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Russian 1430 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Here is information on the session of the Republic of Georgia Supreme Council that, as you know, took place yesterday, on 15 September. [Words indistinct]. It was held under the chairmanship of Akakiy Asatiani, chairman of the Supreme Council. Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia members of the government, and prefects of towns and rayons of the republic took part in its work. [Words indistinct] the deputies proceeded to the discussion of the agenda. The main issue on the agenda was the assessment of the incident that took place on 2 September 1991 in Tbilisi, an incident that led to a sharp exacerbation of the sociopolitical situation in the republic. The first two hours were devoted to the determination of the quorum and specification of the regulations of the session's work. The point is that, after the powers of the deputies from the Georgian Communist Party were suspended at the previous meeting, only 176 out of 236 members of the Supreme Council retained their right to vote. The roll call, which took a long time, revealed that 168 deputies had been registered. For another three hours, including a break, the deputies were engaged in a sharp debate on the need to have the session directly televised. This question was raised in a quite [words indistinct] form by the parliamentary opposition. After the show of hands, the Supreme Council rejected the proposal. A group of deputies representing the All-Georgian Merab Kostava Society was (?among) the first to leave the meeting. Despite the appeal by President Zviad Gamsakhurdia to share the opinion of the majority, to hold a dialogue on all the most important issues, and to reach consensus in the interests of Georgia, the Democratic Center faction and also representatives of other political parties and some independent deputies, 39 persons altogether, left the session [words indistinct].

Meanwhile, the session continued its work. After introducing a number of changes into the agenda that had been issued beforehand, the deputies proceeded to discuss the issues it included.

First, decisions were made on adopting the Declaration of Human Rights proclaimed in 1948 by the United Nations, the CSCE Helsinki and Vienna Final Documents, and an address to UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar and to all those states that, 70 years ago, recognized the Georgian democratic state.

The session discussed some cadre and organizational questions. The Supreme Council gave its consent to President Gamsakhurdia to relieve Tengiz Sigua of the post of chairman of the Government of the Republic of Georgia; Otar (?Kvilitaya) of the post of deputy chairman of the Government of the Republic of Georgia; and Georgiy Khoshtariya, from the post of minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Georgia. Consent was given to the president's nomination of Murman Omanidze as first deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Georgia and Bakur

Gulua as deputy prime minister of the Republic of Georgia; in connection with this, the Supreme Council revoked deputy powers of Bakur Gulua and released him from the post of chairman of the Permanent Commission of the Supreme Council for Industry, Power Engineering, Construction, Transport, and Communications.

Having condemned the use of force for dissipation of (?people), the Supreme Council [words indistinct] assessed the incident that had taken place in Tbilisi, on Rustaveli Square, as a crime against the Georgian people. A decision was made to create an authoritative parliamentary commission with the participation of representatives of all political parties and public that will have to investigate the event and give it an appropriate assessment.

Deputies Walk Out of Meeting

LD1609171391 Moscow TASS in English 1405 GMT 16 Sep 91

[By SAKINFORM-TASS correspondent Eduard Edeberidze]

[Text] Tbilisi September 16—The meeting of the second session of the Georgian Supreme Council ended late last night after unprecedented scenes as thirty nine deputies walked out. In its first five hours the deputies argued about the agenda. The main bone of contention was an assessment of events in Tbilisi on September 2, 1991.

The first two hours were spent establishing if the meeting was quorate and to set a framework for the session's work, given that the deputies' mandates from the Georgian Communist Party are suspended. Another three hours were spent debating whether to broadcast the session live on TV. Eventually, the Supreme Council declared against the live TV coverage by just six votes.

Despite a call from the Republic's President Zviad Gamsakhurdia for talks on existing problems, a group of deputies representing the All-Georgian Merab Costava Society, included in the roundtable-free Georgia ruling bloc, walked out. Representatives of a number of other political parties and some independent deputies followed suit. All-in-all 39 deputies left the meeting.

The session continued nevertheless. It was decided that Georgia sign the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights and the Helsinki and Vienna final documents of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. Deputies also voted to seek recognition from the United Nations secretary-general and those countries who recognised the Georgian democratic state 70 years ago.

The Supreme Council ratified a treaty on the fundamental principles on interstate relations between the Republic of Georgia and the Republic of Armenia signed in Tbilisi this summer. In the decree on the status of Soviet military in Georgia they were described as an "occupation military force".

Discussing the main item on the agenda, the deputies condemned the use of force to disperse a rally. The Supreme Council described it as a crime against the Georgian people. The session decided to set up a parliamentary commission with the participation of representatives of all political parties and the public to give a detailed assessment of the event.

Gamsakhurdia May Cooperate With Opposition

PM1709084591 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Sep 91 Union Edition p 2

[Report by correspondent B. Urigashvili: "Georgia: Parliamentarians Condemn Use of Weapons Against Demonstrators"]

[Text] Tbilisi—The Georgian Supreme Soviet session which was scheduled to begin at 1000 hours Sunday did not begin discussing the items on the agenda until 1530. It took until that time to resolve the question of live television broadcasting.

At the suggestion of Deputy Eldar Shengelaya, member of the Democratic Center parliamentary faction, the question was put to a roll-call vote, to which President Z. Gamsakhurdia retorted that those who voted for live transmission would be responsible for possible bloodshed.

In the division 72 deputies voted for the session to be broadcast, 78 voted against, and 16 abstained. In a protest gesture deputies representing the Merab Kostava society, which belongs to the ruling Roundtable bloc, walked out of the session. They were followed by representatives of the Democratic Center and a group of deputies from the Roundtable headed by Tedo Patashvili, chairman of the parliamentary standing commission on external affairs. In all, 39 people walked out. A little later the communists also left, their deputies' functions temporarily suspended. By the time of the discussion around 140 deputies were left in the hall.

In the words of Roman Gotsiridze, cochairman of the Democratic Center faction, as they were leaving the former Georgian Communist Party Central Committee hall where the session was being held they were almost torn limb from limb by a crowd of fanatical women who formed a tight cordon sealing off the building. Only the timely intervention of the militia defused the situation.

Representatives of the press were not allowed into the session. But, despite that, there is fairly detailed information about how the session went. Attention centered, of course, on the dispersal of a rally 2 September using nightsticks and firearms. V. Razmadze, the republic's general prosecutor, who addressed the session, stated that the prosecutor's office was conducting an investigation and that all the culprits would be punished. He said that he considered the use of firearms against a peaceful rally intolerable and that the people who had given the order must be punished.

Georgian President Z. Gamsakhurdia's speech was distinctive this time in both tone and content. There were fewer harsh comments and searches for enemies and agents. He said that he was dissatisfied with the assessment that he had given right after the event. The blame for that, in Z. Gamsakhurdia's words, lies with the false information that he was given. He tried to pin all the responsibility for what happened on provocateurs who, in his words, still exist in very large numbers among the militia. Those who gave the order to fire, Gamsakhurdia said, were trying to undermine confidence in the leadership and in him personally. He spoke sympathetically of the parliamentary opposition and expressed a readiness to cooperate with it. At the same time, Z. Gamsakhurdia reiterated that those who had organized this action and those who were blocking Rustaveli Avenue that day were "trash," as he put it, and proponents of the policy of traitors and renegades entrenched in Moscow—clearly meaning Shevardnadze.

After a prolonged debate the Supreme Soviet adopted a resolution condemning the use of firearms against the peaceful rally and also created an appropriate commission which, in addition to deputies, will include representatives of all the officially registered opposition political parties.

The stormy discussion of this question seemed to overshadow the other decisions adopted by the session. Let me note the most significant of them. The Georgian legislators conferred on Soviet Army units stationed on Georgian territory the status of occupying forces. They also nationalized all enterprises in the republic currently under Union jurisdiction. The parliament declared Georgian's accession to the Helsinki Final Act and the final documents of the Vienna conference and ratified the Declaration of Human Rights.

However, it is still too soon to say that the crisis has been overcome. The opposition is in a resolute frame of mind and is demanding the president's resignation, come what may. "This man cannot be trusted any more," Nodar Natadze, leader of the People's Front and cochairman of the opposition parliamentary faction, stated at a rally near the university on Sunday.

A combined opposition demonstration has been fixed for 1600 hours on 16 September in Tbilisi. A rally of Gamsakhurdia supporters is timed for 1700 hours. Mutinous guardsmen remain in Shavnabad settlement. According to rumors, they have been joined by members of the Merab Kostava society who until recently were loyal supporters of Z. Gamsakhurdia. Rustaveli Avenue has been cordoned off by barricades. Another barricade has appeared in front of the Georgian Television and Radio Department.

Soviet Troops Called 'Occupying Force'

LD1609154491 Berlin ADN in German 1254 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Moscow (ADN)—The Georgian Parliament has given the units of the Soviet Army stationed in the Caucasus republic the status of occupying troops. This became known in Tbilisi. In a meeting which ended late this afternoon, the deputies also decided to create a Georgian Defense Ministry and customs administration for the country. The seats of the parliamentarians from the former Communist Party of Georgia were declared invalid and the companies and establishments in Georgia which had hitherto been administered by the Union were nationalized.

The deputies consultations were carried out in private.

The Interfax agency discovered from reliable sources that the president, Zviad Gamsakhurdia, had announced his willingness to work with the opposition in parliament. During the last few weeks, opposition forces repeatedly accused Gamsakurdia of using dictatorial methods after the president took over the republic's Interior, Justice and Foreign Ministries and the Committee for State Security and the Department of Defense.

There have been a series of antigovernment demonstrations in Tbilisi recently. Several opposition parties and movements have announced another rally for this evening. At the same time supporters of the controversial president intend to demonstrate.

Troop Resolution Detailed

AU1609173891 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Russian 1430 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Resolution on the Status of the USSR Armed Forces in the Republic of Georgia, adopted by the Republic of Georgia Supreme Council on 15 September]

[Text] In view of the fact that in February and March [words indistinct] 1921, the occupation and annexation of Georgia by the Red Army took place, the main force of armed [words indistinct] remains on the territory of the republic to this day and is subordinated to the USSR leadership alone, and also taking into consideration the fact that the supreme organ of the republic's state power, based on the unanimous expression of will by the Georgian people and by the population of Georgia on 9 April 1991, declared national independence, the Supreme Council of the Republic of Georgia resolves as follows:

1. To declare the USSR Armed Forces deployed on the territory of the Republic of Georgia to be the force of military occupation;

2. [Words indistinct] to start negotiations with the USSR on the withdrawal of the USSR Armed Forces from the territory of the Republic of Georgia;

3. Prior to the complete withdrawal of the USSR Armed Forces from the territory of the republic, to raise the question before the USSR on the immediate withdrawal of Soviet troops from the territory of the Abkhazian Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic [ASSR] and the former South Ossetian Autonomous Region, since their presence and actions there interfere with the stabilization of the situation in these regions.

Asatiani Briefs Media on Session

AU1609160591 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Russian 1430 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Today, Akakiy Asatiani, chairman of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Georgia, held a news conference for Soviet and foreign journalists. The current situation in Georgia was the main topic. The journalists asked about the personality of [Dzhaba] Ioseliani [an opposition leader] and on the negotiations with the opposition and showed special interest in yesterday's session of the Supreme Council of the republic. One fact must be mentioned: Foreign journalists have a biased information on the situation. It was precisely for that reason that they often asked provocative questions. For example, they asked a question on the communist deputies' being expelled from the session meeting. However, chairman of the Supreme Council of the republic refuted this false information. He said that the powers of the communist deputies had been temporarily suspended. Akakiy Asatiani pointed out that the leadership of the republic agrees to hold a dialogue with the opposition, but, so far, there have been no steps toward reconciliation on the part of the opposition. He also noted that [word indistinct] demands that the president and parliament resign will not be satisfied. The laws adopted at yesterday's session were also discussed at the news conference. Particular interest was aroused by the law on the withdrawal of the troops of occupation.

South Ossetia Situation Remains 'Unstable'

LD1609232291 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 16 Sep 91

[From the "TV Inform" newscast]

[Text] The South Ossetia situation is again unstable. The Tskhinvali economic blockade continues. The Georgian side has blocked all the other roads along which humanitarian aid comes from Vladikavkaz. A sanctioned rally took place in Makhachkala on the Popular Front's initiative. Threatening a vote of no-confidence in the present structures of authority, those who spoke called for early elections on a multiparty system. Dagestan's coalition government would be formed on the basis of the election results.

Economic Blockade Continues

LD1609114991 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1035 GMT 16 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vlakavkaz, 16 Sep (TASS)—In South Ossetia the situation is still tense. According to reports by the press center of the Information Committee of that autonomous republic, last night a group of guerrillas stormed into the Ossetian settlement of Artsevi. They killed 25-year-old A. Kaziyev and took 16 civilians hostage.

The economic blockade of Tskhinvali continues. All suburban roads used for tansporting humanitarian aid from Blakavkaz have been sealed off by the Georgian side. All convoys of motor vehicles without exception following the main Dzhava-Tskhinvali highway have to use the cover of armored vehicles.

According to unofficial reports, more than 80,000 refugees from South Ossetia are now staying in Vladikavkaz and rural areas of the North Ossetian SSR.

Armenia

Participation in Economic Structures Viewed

PM1609110791 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Sep 91 Union Edition p 2

[Report by Sergey Bablumyan: "A. Ter-Petrosyan Receives Reprimand for Self-Willed Behavior and at the Same Time—New Powers"]

[Text] Yerevan—The forms of Armenia's participation in the USSR's organs of state power will depend on the results of the forthcoming 21 September republic referendum.

That decision was taken by the Armenian Supreme Soviet after a prolonged and more than stormy debate. It did not manage without mutual accusations of attempts to waive the principles of independence. In particular Levon Ter-Petrosyan, the head of parliament, was charged with "self-willed behavior" expressed in the signing, without parliament's permission, of a joint statement of the USSR president and the top leaders of the union republics.

The parliament deemed it expedient for Armenia to take part in interrepublican economic structures, instructing the government and Supreme Soviet permanent commissions to continue the work they are doing in this direction. Ter-Petrosyan received powers from parliament to take part in forthcoming sessions of the country's State Council for consultations with the republics' leaders on forms of cooperation in the organs of interrepublican power and administration.

Villages in Shaumyanovskiy Captured

NC1609150391 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1215 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Yerevan, 16 Sep (ARMENPRES)—The self-defense forces in Shaumyanovskiy Rayon have driven away the Azerbaijani OMON [Special Purpose Militia Detachment] from Verishen village. They then liberated Buzluk and Manashid villages.

According to preliminary reports, one was killed and one injured from among the self-defense forces. Fourteen OMON members were killed. Military hardware and rifles were seized.

The Azerbaijanis have taken three Moscow City Soviet deputies hostage. One of them has managed to escape; the fate of the remaining two is not known.

The corpses of two Azerbaijani shepherds have been found in Nakhichevan. They had been thought to have disappeared without a trace. The law enforcement organs of the two republics have set up a joint group to find out who is responsible for the killings. Seventy out of 84 Armenians taken hostage at Megri have been freed. The fate of the remaining 14 is not yet known.

Azerbaijan

Mutalibov, Ter-Petrosyan on State Council Session

LD1609093791 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0830GMT 16Sep91

[By TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 16 Sep (TASS)—Despite all the evidence of the maintenance and preservation of a single economic space in the country, I am troubled by the weakening of economic links, which has become noticeable among the republics, President Ayaz Mutalibov of Azerbaijan told a TASS correspondent. In his opinion, the most important thing today is the recognition by the republics of the importance of establishing economic order and raising the level of horizontal links.

A few minutes before the opening of the State Council session—which has begun its work under the chairmanship of President Mikhail Gorbachev of the USSR—the Armenian head of parliament Ter-Petrosyan, expressing the common opinion of the leaders of the republics, told a TASS correspondent that "There is no agenda as such, but we are all ready to discuss any constructive program".

Supreme Soviet Abolishes NKAO Committee

OW1609201491 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1845 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] IF [INTERFAX] learned at the press-centre of the Azeri Supreme Soviet that the republican Organizing Committee for Nagorno-Karabakh [NKAO] was abolished. It is replaced by Azerbaijan's coordination committee for Nagorno-Karabakh. The council is likely to comprise representatives of various parliament factions. The coordination council is to act as the organizing committee for some time.

The Organizing Committee for Nagorno-Karabakh that was headed by second secretary of the Central Committee of the Azerbaijani Communist Party Victor Polyanichko had been set up by the Baku authorities following the suspension of the regional soviet in Nagorno-Karabakh, a largely Armenian-populated autonomous region in Azerbaijan.

According to a number of observers, the abolition of the Organizing Committee for Nagorno-Karabakh may be a sign that Baku is becoming more flexible on the Karabakh problem.

Release of Most Nakhichevan Hostages Reported

PM1709091791 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Sep 91 Union Edition p 2

[Report by Sergey Bablumyan: "Some Hostages Returned"]

[Text] Yerevan—Of the 84 passengers on the Yerevan-Kafan train who had been taken hostage, 70 have been allowed home. The fate of the 14 passengers remaining at the Ordubad station of the Nakhichevan republic remains unclear.

The majority of the hostages were released after the return of 890 sheep driven into Armenia. The bodies of two shepherds were discovered on Azerbaijan territory—a report to this effect has been received from the Armenian Foreign Ministry and is confirmed by Azerbaijan television broadcasts, which are freely received in Armenia's Megrinskiy Rayon, which borders on Azerbaijan.

IZVESTIYA was told by Ambartsum Kandilyan, chief of the Yerevan section of the Transcaucasus railroad, that trains are still not running from Azerbaijan to the Armenian capital.

14 Passengers Still Missing

LD1609125291 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] The train seized a few days ago on the territory of Nakhichevan Republic and held hostage has been returned. SNARK agency reports that 70 of 84 passenger-hostages have returned. The fate of the rest is unknown.

Yerevan Reports on Nakhichevan Border Situation

NC1609193391 Yerevan Radio Yerevan Network in Armenian 1730 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] According to reports coming from the Interior Ministry of Nakhichevan Republic, the corpses of two Azerbaijani shepherds were found within the territory of Nakhichevan. They had been considered missing.

The leadership of Armenia and Nakhichevan are deeply concerned about the possible major destabilization along the borders of the two republics. The law enforcement organs of both republics are instructed to uncover all the details of the incident and punish the criminals. Joint operational investigation groups have been set up and are cooperating and conducting an investigation.

The Armenian Interior Ministry organs have detained four persons suspected of having stolen a herd of animals from Nakhichevan on the night of 12-13 September.

After the detained train traveling the Yerevan-Kapan route arrived in Megri, the Azerbaijani side took 14 of the 84 passengers hostage. According to testimony from the passengers, those people were taken hostage during the course of negotiations between the leaderships of Armenia and Nakhichevan. While the two republics were conducting talks to resolve the conflict, the local authorities in Ordubad, including the internal affairs organs, were taking measures to undermine a possible agreement.

Even now, if flexibility and far-sightedness fails to resolve the hostage issue, then the incident might increase tension in that sector of the border where for a long time it had been possible to maintain stability.

The Republican Operative Committee attached to the Armenian Council of Ministers is taking measures to obtain the release of the hostages.

[Yerevan Radio Yerevan Network in Armenian at 1730 GMT on 16 September also reports the capture of the three villages in Shaumyanovskiy Rayon by Armenians and adds: "Taking advantage of the fact that the Soviet Army now is not interfering in the local conflict, the Azerbaijani leadership is sending large numbers of armed organizations to the Armenian-inhabited regions. These armed organizations are being deployed in Azerbaijani-inhabited villages. Thus, for the last two days a huge massing of armed Special Purpose Militia Detachment forces has been observed in Karadagly and Khodzhavent villages in Martuninskiy Rayon. This can only remind us of Ayaz Mutalibov's promise that if he is re-elected president he will speedily solve the Nagorno-Karabakh problem."]

Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast

Moscow Soviet Deputy Escapes Firing Squad

LD1609061391 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 2020 GMT 15 Sep 91

[From the "Television News Service" program]

[Text] And now Nagorno-Karabakh. A report from our correspondent in Armenia shows how explosive the situation remains there.

[Correspondent V. Nazaryan, identified by caption] I have more than once heard evidence of outright—sometimes even fanatical—hostility from people who ended up as hostages in the hands of the Azerbaijani OMON.

[L. Balashov, Moscow Soviet deputy, identified by caption] Such absurd accusations that we are allegedly helping the Armenian side, that we organized everything, this Armenian action, that we are spies here. [sentence as heard]

[Nazaryan] One could say that last night Deputy Balashov was born again. With his colleagues Vera Khudoleyeva and Dmitriy Katayev in Azerbaijan on a peacemaking mission at the instruction of the Russian parliament, he became a hostage in the Azerbaijani village of Eshafek in the former Shaumyanovskiy rayon and literally, miraculously, escaped from a firing squad.

[Balashev] The chairman of the village soviet called six guards and they pointed their guns at us and started taking us to the edge of the village. I asked the chairman of the village soviet what they were planning to do with us. He said that we would be shot in a minute. I saw that it was a most difficult situation and some decision had to be made. When we approached a large shed, I saw a narrow alley and I dropped my bag and escaped. In fact I escaped from a firing squad. And at the time I didn't know the fate of my two colleague deputies. Later I heard two shots and it seemed to me that they were shot.

[Journalist L. Parshin, identified by caption] Deputies Khudoleyeva Vera and Dmitriy Katayev are now safe, they are in Geranboy. But this information so far hasn't been verified, so it seems to me that we can only stop worrying about their fate once they are either in Yerevan or in Moscow. [Video shows men in a room, apparently items of clothing, deputy's badge, notebook with deputies names, close-ups of speakers]

Azerbaijan Reports Deaths, Injuries in Clash

OW1609225591 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1845 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to reports coming to the Azerbaijani Interior Ministry, one policeman was injured in an attack mounted by Armenian guerillas on the Azeri village of Zamzur, Dzhebrail District, Azerbaijan, on the night of September 16.

On September 15 the Armenian guerillas fired on the village of Giyasly, Agdam District.

Azerbaijani Interior Ministry press-centre reports that during the Saturday clash at the village of Verishen, Geranboi (formerly Shaumyan) District between the Azeri OMON [Special Purpose Militia Detachment] police and armed Armenians five police had died and three were reported MIA. "Fewer men were injured than were killed", said a press-centre official.

According to the press-centre, among the Armenian guerillas are citizens of Syria, Lebanon and France. However, IF [INTERFAX] failed to receive a confirmation of the statement from independent sources.

According to the Armenian Interior Ministry, the Azerbaijani OMON police lost 14 killed, and, by unconfirmed reports, some 30 wounded. One Armenian was killed and three were gravely wounded. Two of them later died.

14 Azerbaijan Riot Police Die in Village Clash

OW1609174891 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1050 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Armenia's interior ministry reports that in Saturday's clash between members of Azerbaijan's OMON [Special Purpose Militia Detachment] and defenders of the Armenian-populated Verishen village in Geranboi (formerly Shaumian) region of Azerbaijan 14 Azeri policemen were killed and about 30 wounded.

The Armenian side lost one man. Three others were seriously wounded. Later two of them died.

In the meantime on Sunday 3 Armenian cars were fired at near Kichan and Chldran, Armenian-populated villages in Mardakert region, Nagorno-Karabakh. One of the cars was burned. Its driver was seriously injured.

According to the news agency "Norutiun Service", in the past 2 days numerous armed units concentrated in Martuni region near villages populated by Azeris.

Armenia Militants Prepare Azeri Villages Attacks

LD1609203891 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1900 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Excerpt] As many as 50 passenger buses and six army vehicles carrying Armenian militants are said to have arrived in Nagorno-Karabakh to attack three Azeri villages, amid reports of a renewed flare-up of tension there. Three Azeri policemen were killed. In a separate incident, an Azeri police patrol car is said to have hit a land mine. [passage omitted]

Recent Clashes, Political Scene Assessed

LD1609001891 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2006 GMT 15 Sep 91

["Azerbaijan News Service" report; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Just like the old times, alongside the stepping up of democratic processes in the Transcaucasus, the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh gets worse. Here is a brief roundup of the past two days.

—Geranboyskiy Rayon: the Azerbaijani-populated villages Erkech, Manashid, Buzluk, and (?Bash-Kishlak) were attacked by illegal Armenian armed formations. As a result, 14 people from both sides were killed.

—Gadrutskiy Rayon: this morning there was an armed clash here between local residents of Armenian and Azerbaijani nationality. As a result, seven people from both sides were killed.

At the moment there are no reasons for military activities to be stepped up in Nagorno-Karabakh. On the contrary, they have been concluding peace treaties in some Nagorno-Karabakh villages recently. The democratic forces of both republics are calling people to reconciliation. All these facts lead one to one thought alone: that again these provocations are being skillfully inspired by someone; someone—and not the Armenian and Azerbaijani peoples, naturally—has a great need for them. And when you come up against these kinds of actions, which cost human lives, you realize that the victory over the SCSE [State Committee for the State of Emergency] does not mean total victory for democracy on the former territory of the USSR. [Video shows armored vehicles in countryside, soldier being bandaged, rocket being fired]

Kazakhstan

Baker Arrives on Visit, Meets With Nazarbayev

Joint News Conference Held

LD1609091391 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 0800 GMT 16 Sep 91

[AZIYA-PRESS agency report]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has described Kazakhstan as one of the most important republics in the country at a news conference held after the conclusion of his short visit to Alma-Ata. He highly assessed President Nursultan Nazarbayev as one of the respected and progressive leaders in the Union.

The fact of his visit to Alma-Ata itself shows the U.S. intention to expand relations with Kazakhstan. Yet Baker did not outline the specifice forms of economic cooperation, referring to the fact that cardinal decisions that will define the future attitude of the United States to all the republics will be worked out at a session of the State Council in the immediate future.

Answering questions put to him by Soviet and foreign journalists, President Nazarbayev touched on the problems of nuclear weapons. He stated that the defense of the country should be a matter of common responsibility and that the nuclear missiles should be under joint control of the republics and the center.

U.S.-Kazakh Relations Discussed

OW1609155791 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1500 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker held a joint news conference in Alma-Ata on Monday at which they attached considerable significance to the development of bilateral contacts.

Mr. Baker described Kazakhstan as one of the Soviet Union's leading republics and Mr. Nazarbayev as one of the most influential Soviet leaders. He assessed his visit to Kazakhstan as "useful."

The U.S. official said as soon as the Soviet Union worked out an economic program in which the West would believe, it could expect Western nations to offer help not only to the Union as a whole but also to its separate republics.

Asked whether the United States thought it possible to exchange consuls with Kazakhstan, Mr. Baker said that his current trip to the republic spoke for itself.

President Nazarbayev said in reply to a question about the future of Kazakhstan-deployed nuclear weapons that the Soviet Union should have a single system of defense, but its nuclear missiles should be under the collective control of the republics. "I object to having such weapons controlled by only one republic, however large it may be," N. Nazarbayev said and added that Kazakhstan had banned all nuclear testing on its territory.

Having completed the program of his visit to Kazakhstan, Mr. Baker left for Israel to contribute to preparations for a peace conference on the Middle East. He expressed confidence that the combined efforts of all nations could remove the serious barriers to peace in that region.

Economic Setup Examined

LD1609181291 Moscow Central Television Vostok Program and Orbita Networks in Russian 1530 GMT 16 Sep 91

[From the "TV Inform" newscast]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker arrived for a short visit to the Kazakh capital on 15 September. Immediately upon arrival, Baker met with republican President Nursultan Nazarbayev. Such a dialogue is of particular significance for both sides: for the United States, it is the increased interest in the republic's stability as a future and reliable partner; for Kazakhstan, as a sovereign state moving toward a market economy.

James Baker and the persons accompanying him today met with Kazakhstan government members. A news conference for Soviet and foreign journalists was then held:

[Begin Baker recording in English with superimposed Russian translation] It is necessary to work out a reliable and trustworthy Soviet unified economic program on which Western countries, the IMF, and other international financial institutions will be able to render assistance to the Soviet republics for their individual economic programs, technical cooperation programs, and cadre and manager training. Humanitarian assistance and food and medical supplies will also be given to help support them through the winter. As for Kazakhstan, we intend to expand our mutual relations and strengthen ties with its leadership. We are impressed by Kazakhstan President Nazarbayev's progressive position and high international prestige. [end recording]

The U.S. secretary of state visited the world-renowned Medeo sports complex before departing Alma-Ata.

Nazarbayev Trade Proposals

LD1609193191 Moscow TASS in English 1830 GMT 16 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondents Amangeldiy Ahmetalimov and Gennadiy Kulagin]

[Text] Alma-Ata September 16 TASS—U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has ended his official visit to Kazakhstan and left Alma-Ata today after meeting with President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan.

The leader of Kazakhstan informed Baker of measures being taken in the republic to reform the republican economy. Nazarbayev drew the attention of the U.S. guest to the republic's natural wealth and raw material resources which, he said, open up wide opportunities for foreign investments.

The following specific proposals were made to the U.S. secretary of state: on the establishment of direct trade-and-economic relations between Kazakhstan and the United States, the founding of a U.S. investment fund for the republic, assistance to Kazakhstan in joining the international monetary organisations and the opening of official missions in the two countries.

Baker pointed out that the stand of the leadership of Kazakhstan inspired the confidence of the U.S. side. It is in the interest of the United States and the entire world community to develop cooperation both with the USSR, which would keep on within a certain organisational framework, and with its constituent states, Baker emphasised.

Baker on Need for Economic Plan

PM1709090991 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Sep 91 Union Edition p 1

[Correspondent V. Ardayev report: "United States Intends to Strengthen Ties with Kazakhstan"]

[Text] Alma-Ata—Talks between U.S. Secretary of State J. Baker and Kazakh President N. Nazarbayev have ended in Alma-Ata.

They gave a short news conference for Soviet and foreign journalists.

Answering a U.S. TV company's question on the future of nuclear armaments on Kazakh territory, N. Nazarbayev said that he has issued a decree banning nuclear tests at the Semipalatinsk test range, which will now become a facility for research work by the Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic Academy of Sciences. He repeated his opinion that all defense on USSR territory should be integrated and that nuclear weapons must be under unified control as well as under the control of the republics where they are located. "I am opposed to nuclear weapons' being owned by any one republic, no matter how large it is," Nazarbayev said.

Replying to a question on prospects for the development of relations between the United States and Kazakhstan, Baker said that the U.S. administration intends to expand and strengthen relations with Kazakhstan, and that the fact of his visit to the republic is evidence of this.

Baker is aware that Nazarbayev is flying to Moscow for the session of the State Council, where the fundamental question of the adoption of the plan for a program of reforms in the Soviet Union will be examined. The adoption of that plan will enable Western countries and international financial institutions—such as the World Bank, the IMF, and others—to begin giving real help to the republics in providing finance, drawing up republic economic programs, training specialists, and so forth. What your country needs most now is a solid plan, which can be relied on and can be trusted, Baker stressed. At the same time there is something that the international community will offer regardless of what plan is adopted. Namely, humanitarian aid, technical cooperation, and so forth.

In conclusion, the Kazakh president thanked Baker for his visit. Nazarbayev did not comment on the results but reported that the talks were very frank and useful and that this, in his words, is of great significance for the future of Kazakhstan and the country as a whole.

Nazarbayev Confirms Nuclear Arms Stance

LD1609215891 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 16 Sep 91

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Excerpt] Perhaps not everyone realizes that today's main event occurred in Alma-Ata. Kazakh President Nazarbayev made a tough statement that he will not renounce nuclear weapons on the republic's territory. Previously, Nazarbayev spoke of this in two interviews, to Japanese and U.S. journalists. He confirmed his position today during a joint news conference with U.S. Secretary of State Baker, who has finished his official visit to Kazakhstan. Nazarbayev said that Soviet nuclear weapons should be under the control of those republics which possess them and that he opposes these weapons and the possibility of their use being in the hands of one single republic—meaning Russia—or one center. Nazarbayev says that the decision to use nuclear weapons must be made by Moscow jointly with Kazakhstan. Baker announced at the news conference the U.S. intention to expand relations with Kazakhstan, noting that President Nazarbayev is one of the most recognized leaders in the Soviet Union. However, we have not received any reports from Alma-Ata on Baker's reaction to Nazarbayev's statement on nuclear weapons. Nevertheless, quite a few questions arise; for instance, how does Nazarbayev's statement agree with the decision previously adopted by Kazakhstan's parliament to declare the republic a nuclear-free zone? How will Gorbachev and Yeltsin react to the statement? They have stressed that the Soviet nuclear arsenal should remain under the strict control of the central government. [passage omitted]

Nazarbayev on Nuclear Arms Control, Japan Ties

LD1509134991 Moscow TASS in English 1332 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] Tokyo September 15 TASS—President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan said in an interview with the

Japanese newspaper TOKYO SHIMBUN that the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan would form the nucleus of the future Union of Sovereign States but that does not mean that it is possible to agree to Russia's control over all nuclear weapons. Its transportation alone will cost hundreds of millions of roubles.

In this connection Nazarbayev favoured cuts in the Soviet nuclear stocks down to a reasonable threshold and said the nuclear arsenal should be placed under control of a special committee under the State Council.

Kazakhstan intends to develop large-scale contacts with Japan, Nazarbayev said, and appeal to that country for assistance in building a Euro-Asian railway mainline to link Europe with China's Pacific coast.

As regards the Northern Territories, Nazarbayev said "turning Russia into a participant in talks on this problem is not consistent with logic".

French Defense Minister Arrives at Cosmodrome

LD1509194791 Moscow TASS in English 1854 GMT 15 Sep

[By TASS correspondent]

[Text] Baykonur Cosmodrome September 15 TASS—French Defence Minister Pierre Joxe arrived at Baykonur Cosmodrome on Sunday.

He was shown specimens of Soviet space technology and toured the launch and technical facilities of the cosmodrome.

Kyrgyzstan

Akayev Acknowledges 'Limitations' to Sovereignty

PM1709111991 Paris LE MONDE in French 12 Sep 91 p 4

[Interview with Kyrgyz Republic President Akayev by Philippe Pons, date not given: "'Ethno-Nationalism Is Retrogressive,' Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev Tells Us"]

[Text] Bishkek—[Pons] Mr President, is socialism dead in Kyrgyzstan?

[Akayev] I hope that it has disappeared forever. The dictatorship of the proletariat was nothing but a veil masking the dictatorship of one party or one man. What we must do now is lay the foundations of a rule-of-law state and a free economy. Without rejecting Marx' analyses of capitalist society, I think that the liberal Adam Smith's view was right. In the past 70 years, while we thought we were building a better society, the Western capitalist countries have realized better than we the social ideas that we proclaimed.

[Pons] Are you considering calling an early election?

[Akayev] Not for the moment. I have set myself three tasks: to organize a presidential referendum so as to remove the head of state from his present position of dependence on parliament; to really set up a market economy; and to promote a new balance among the ethnic groups forming the nation. Organizing elections in the current climate of ethnic tension could only destabilize the country.

[Pons] Are you afraid of aggravating ethnic tensions?

[Akayev] No. The risk of another kind of totalitarianism, totalitarian nationalism, exists nevertheless. But I am working to avoid that. The national renaissance must lead to a new social contract enabling all the nation's ethnic groups to enjoy equal status. Ethnonationalism is retrogressive, not progressive.

[Pons] Do you foresee an independence for Kyrgyzstan comparable to that of the Baltic countries?

[Akayev] No. We must be aware of our limitations. Kyrgyzstan's independence must be that of a sovereign state within a Union of a new type which favors the development of an economic community. Furthermore, we foresee signing a military alliance with Russia, Kazakhstan, and the other Central Asian republics.

Akayev Comments on State Council Agenda

LD1609103191 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Kyrgyzstan supports the idea of concluding economic treaties, President Askar Akayev told a TASS correspondent. It is such an agreement, and not political solutions, that can serve as a powerful integrating factor for the country. In his opinion, this issue will be the most important one at today's meeting of the State Council, although the foodstuffs issue is the first item on the agenda. The Kyrgyzstan leader believs that the draft by Academician Shatalin should be chosen as a basis for the future treaty, and not the version being discussed by the State Council, written by another well-known economist, Grioriy Yavlinskiy.

Akayev Only Candidate in Presidential Election

OW1609225491 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1845 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] After the period for nominating candidates for Kyrgyz Presidency expired on September 16, it transpired that the incumbent President Askar Akayev will run in an uncontested election.

IF [INTERFAX] learned at the central electoral commission of Kyrgyzstan that though other nominees were free to register, hundreds of work collectives, public organisations and national- cultural centres had supported Akayev.

According to Chairman of the republican Supreme Soviet Medet Sheremkulov, the only reason why there were no contenders is the very high prestige Akayev has in the republic. Akayev established himself as a serious politician and state figure during less than a year as republican president.

Sheremkulov emphasized that any sober-minded candidate realizes that Akayev is sure to win the election.

Republic Supreme Soviet To Convene 21 Sep

LD1709083291 Bishkek Radio Bishkek Network in Russian 1300 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] On 16 September 1991 there was a session of the Krygyzstan Republic Supreme Soviet Presidium which examined the question of convening the extraordinary 7th session of the republic Supreme Soviet. It was decided to convene the session on 21 September.

It will examine our republic's candidates for the USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of the Republics and the Soviet of the Union. Candidates have been discussed and recommended for examination at the session.

The presidium session approved the text of an address by the Supreme Soviet in connection with the adoption of the Kyrgyzstan Republic's declaration of state independence which will also be examined at the supreme Soviet.

It is also proposed that the session (?examine) prospects for cooperation between the Republic of Kyrgyzstan and other sovereign republics.

The Presidium discussed progress in carrying out the laws of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan on amnesty and model rules for presidiums of local soviets.

There was also an examination of a number of important questions concerning the life of the republic. Appropriate decisions were made on all the above-mentioned questions.

The session was chaired by Kyrgyzstan Supreme Soviet Chairman Sherimkulov.

Several Tourism Investment Protocols Signed

OW1709000291 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2037 GMT 16 Sep 91

[From the "Soviet Business Report;" transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] More than 20 foreign firms have signed protocols of intent concerning wider cooperation in tourism with the republic of Kyrgyzstan, Central Asia.

German firms may take part in building Alpine skiing facilities and the Austrian firms "Macollan Holding", hotels in the republican capital Bishkek and on Lake Issyk-Kul. The Swiss firm Tecpocess has said it is interested in building small Alpine motels. The possibility is being considered of lending plots of land to foreign concessions (including those in the area of high altitude Lake Issyk-Kul) for terms of 30-50 years.

Kyrgyzstan's law on foreign investment gives tourist firms a full five-year tax holiday and makes 60

of their profit tax-exempt for another five years.

MVD Chief on Slav Concerns, Coup Threat

PM1609140591 Paris LE MONDE in French 12 Sep 91 p 4

[Report by special correspondent Philippe Pons: "'Renaissance' Under Great Stress in Kyrgyzstan. Independence of This Small Asian Republic Worries Russians, Ukrainians"]

[Excerpt] Bishkek—[passage omitted]

"New Putsch Cannot Be Ruled Out"

The Slavs of Kazakhstan [as published] no longer really feel at home in this country. The malaise began, they say, two years ago. Outbreaks of ethnic unrest were the first sign of this upsurge of Kyrgyz nationalism. A draft law depriving non-Kyrgyz of the right to own land was perceived as a new threat. President Akayev vetoed this proposal, but that did not dispel the worries. In 1990, we were told at the Slav Association, 70,000 Russians and Ukrainians left Kyrgyzstan in the first eight months of that year. Interior Minister Feliks Kulov acknowledged the existence of the malaise among the ethnic groups, but did not confirm the departure figures for Slavs. "There is no actual discrimination, but a certain apprehension has indeed arisen in people's minds," he told us.

Mr. Kulov played a decisive role during the putsch: On the night of 19 August he actually deployed units of the militia (12,000 men), which is under his command, around government and television buildings. Moreover, he blocked communications between the Communist Party and the KGB on the one hand and the Army on the other, thus preventing intervention. "Two-thirds of the military were on the putschists' side. I received a direct order from General Fuzhenko, commander of the Turkestan Military District (covering the five Central Asian republics), to follow Moscow's instructions. Which I refused. 'To hell with your independence! the general said as he hung up before phoning the president to demand my immediate replacement. Which the latter refused. He had on the contrary just dismissed the KGB chief. Today General Fuzhenko is pressing the president's office to get his stance during the putsch passed over in silence."

Mr. Kulov does not hide a certain concern about the future: "The junta's demands were justified to a certain extent. If reforms are not undertaken quickly, a new putsch cannot be ruled out: This time it will not start at the top, but from the middle-ranking command in the

Army, and the consequences will be graver." Kyrgyzstan is making its way toward an independence that is perhaps easier to proclaim than to implement. It possesses neither the economic nor military means for independence. To reinforce his position as arbiter President Akayev will submit himself to a referendum in October, which, if it returns him to office, as is likely, will make him less dependent upon parliament.

Tajikistan

Aslonov Comments on Independence, Common Union

LD1709103791 Moscow TASS in English 1004 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] Dushanbe September 17 TASS—The Tajik declaration of independence does not mean that the republican leadership is against joining the union of sovereign democratic states, Kadriddin Aslonov, Tajik acting president told republican newspapers.

Independent Tajikistan cannot imagine itself outside the Union and stands for speeding up the signing of a treaty on the union of sovereign states on an equal and mutually beneficial basis, he stated.

First general presidential elections in Tajikistan should become a consolidating factor in the republic, Aslonov holds. The elections campaign is already under way.

Tajik acting president said no split must be allowed in the republic, neither on territorial or ethnic grounds. The process of state and national consolidation should by no means infringe the minority rights, Aslonov said.

Authorities Begin Departyization of Legal Bodies

LD1609185291 Moscow Central Television Vostok Program and Orbita Networks in Russian 1530 GMT 16 Sep 91

[From the "TV Inform" newscast]

[Text] The process of ousting the Party from law and order protection bodies has begun in Tajikistan:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent M. Nikulin] Those employed by the KGB, the Internal Affairs Ministry, the Procuracy, the judiciary, other law and order protection bodies, and the apparatus of the republic's president from now on will have to be guided in their activities only be the demands of the laws currently in force. As for their participation in the work of parties and movements, it can be allowed in work-free time and outside the framework of state bodies. Trade union activities will be governed by an agreement between the administration and the work force.

[Unidentified correspondent] Your Party organization has more than 250 Communists. What will be their fate?

[Sh. Dzhabirov, secretary of the Tajik Soviet Socialist Republic KGB Party Committee] Discussing the president's decree today, we decided to stop Party activities in our republican committee. The CPSU members will now be registered in their residences, and they will work there as Communists. We need a few days to tidy up the party documents to hand them over to the appropriate party organs. As for the means, our Party still has at its disposal...[changes thought] A total of 50 percent of this comes from members' contributions. This morning we discussed things with Communists, examined this issue, and decided to hand it over to charity, in particular to the Shakhrin children's house which we have been helping for a long time. [end recording]

Turkmenia

Niyazov Finds Economic Agreement 'Premature'

LD1609171191 Moscow TASS in English 0749 GMT 16 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Viktor Saklakov]

[Text] Moscow September 16 TASS—The USSR State Council is to hold its first meeting today. The Council will discuss the formation of a single economic space by the republics and several other problems.

"I believe it is premature to sign an economic agreement today," Turkmenian President Saparmurad Niyazov told TASS, commenting on the meeting's agenda. "We need two or three months to remove all the uncertainties that have appeared of late. During this period the sovereign republics, together with the Russian leadership, will be able to clarify their relations and work out an acceptable version of the agreement."

"Everything will be decided by the market and not by convulsive attempts to perpetuate certain elements of the previous economy," Niyazov noted. "We are all heading towards trade exchange on the basis of world prices. We may incur losses, but we still have faith in the effectiveness of our solidarity. For instance, if our Caucasian partners are unable to pay right away for Turkmenian gas, we are prepared to conclude a mutually advantageous agreement, envisaging equitable exchanges. A common insurance fund may come in handy in times of need. It should be set up on a voluntary basis. These problems must be settled today. We must dot all the i's before 1992."

"However, there are disturbing symptoms already now. We are refused the grain we need and told to wait. But we cannot impair our agriculture by waiting for God knows what. If the concluded agreements continue to be violated, we will be compelled to sell our cotton, oil and gas on the world market in exchange for fodder."

"Today, every leader must tell the State Council whether his republic is ready to join the union of sovereign states, whether it will honour the terms of equitable commodity

exhgange or not," the Turkmenian president stressed. "It is also necessary to make clear whether we have a common centre or we have discarded it altogether. A clear answer to this question will allow us to settle the problems of nuclear weapons, national troops and credit system."

Uzbekistan

Karimov Favors Chinese-Model Reforms

LD1709094891 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 0800 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] President Islam Karimov of Uzbekistan has announced that central Asian republic will carry out reforms according to the Chinese model.

In an interview with a group of Western correspondents in Tashkent, he said a ban on political activity would be maintained until next presidential and parliamentary elections.

According to Islam Karimov, the nomination of candidates will begin next year after the republican parliament has passed respective law on elections.

French Defense Minister Meets With Karimov

OW1609170291 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1600 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Uzbeki President Karimov said during his Monday meeting in Tashkent with France's defense minister that Uzbekistan was ready to join the new Union that would have a common economic space and one army.

According to the Uzbeki president, all issues relating to the troops to be stationed on republican territory should be handled together with the republican government. These issues vill be the responsibility of the newly-established Uzbekistan's Ministry for the Questions of Defense.

The French defense minister also met with the command of the Turkestan Military District and paid a visit to the armour school in Tashkent.

On September 17 the French defense minister plans to visit Samarkand and Bukhara.